

ULTRA ACCESS Scaffolding and the Law

The main Rules, Regulations and Best Practice Guidance within scaffolding

Scaffolding is the most important manual trade within the British Construction Sector. Its a highly dangerous and hazardous industry, as well as being safety and work production-critical for many other sectors and trades.

There are Parliamentary Acts, several pieces of Legislation, many Regulations, lots of British Standards (BS EN) and dozens of best practice Technical and Safety Guidance's that was either partially / directly written for scaffolding, or ones that are more broader in scope that the industry must adhere too.

Here are the main 5, as per the opinion of **ULTRA ACCESS...**

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HASWA):

The all encompassing Act for all safety within the workplace, requiring employers to ensure Health, Safety, and Welfare.

For scaffolding: Risk Assessments, Safe Systems of Work (SSoW's), training to a recognised standard, competent Supervision, suitable and undamaged equipment, to name a few are all required by this Parliamentary Act, albeit the language can be ambiguous sometimes, so we would refer to each and every persons **DUTY OF CARE** obligations as the easy to define phrase.

Work at Height Regulations 2005 (WAHR):

Covers much of the above, but in greater detail, for those who specifically work at height, ie; scaffolders.. and by their actions, could lead to unsafe / potentially life threatening incidents. Management of restricting falls from height, falling objects, correct / suitable and inspected PPE and of course, the legally required inspections of the completed scaffolding structure all come from these regs.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM):

CDM regs cover Client / Designer / Contractor (Principle or Sub) duties. Scaffolding requires risk-integrated design (either by NASC Compliance Sheets, or Scaffold Designs), pre-construction info, safety plans and surveys, competent workplace coordination, suitable welfare, and project handover files (if applicable).

BS EN 12811-1:2003 – Temporary Works Equipment - Scaffolds:

Sets scaffold performance under Temporary Works: including specifications of the different scaffold load classes (2 kN/m², etc), structure stability, wind resistance, live and fixed loads, etc. Requires design calcs for non-standard / non-compliant scaffolds; material specs, safety factors.

NASC's TG20 - Tube and Fitting Guidance and **SG4** - Safe Scaffolding Working Guidance:

HSE (Health and Safety Executive) endorsed best practice.

Covering scaffold ties, bracing patterns, structural loads.

Helps with WAHR compliance, giving guidance on foundations, boarding processes, handrail heights, what scaffolds can be built without complex designs, how to erect/dismantle safely, and scaffold inspections to name a few.

Its the industry best practice that all professional scaffolding companies should follow, and where its not perfect, it does help to standardise the industry - making the work safer and of a better quality for all involved...

... there are however many others to cover, but these are the main 5 that everyone in scaffolding should be aware of.