

ULTRA ACCESS

The 5 Safety (and HYPER) Critical parts of a Scaffold

The 5 things ULTRA ACCESS considers most important

!! WARNING !!



!! SAFETY CRITICAL !!

Scaffolding can be a complex structure, built with (sometimes) many hundreds of components, maybe thousands depending on the size of it.

Components, and elements making up the overall structure that without (some 70% of all construction works) could not even be started, let alone completed.

And even though due to the nature of the work involved, being pretty much safety critical from start to finish, there are some parts that **ULTRA ACCESS** considers at least **Safety Critical...**

Within our **SISAR** reporting system, we identify 5 different parts to the scaffold, that we put extra emphasis on, and consider these more "safety critical" than the rest...

1. **Scaffolding Foundations / Footings:** which is the ground and chosen base that the structure is built on... poor foundations lead to structural instabilities and could put increased pressure on other parts of the scaffold due to load transference, that might not be designed to take such increased loads.
2. **Scaffolding Standards:** the vertical tubes that sit directly on said chosen base. These should be spaced at regular intervals for equal load transference, and make up the Scaffolding Bays. Damage to said Standards could lead to structural instabilities also.
3. **Scaffolding Ties (HYPER):** self explanatory, really... especially if the scaffold is cladded, with something that could cause a "wind sail effect". The Scaffolding Ties should be installed correctly, as per either **NASC's TG Compliance Sheet** or as per on your Scaffold Design, again, at regular intervals and as per **TG4 Guidance**.
4. **Scaffold Cladding (HYPER):** which is anything that could increase the wind loadings onto a structure, or the "wind sail effect". Hence why **TG Guidance explicitly states to install ALL cladding types, except Brickguards on the OUTSIDE of the structure**, to allow for the cladding to be ripped away from the scaffold, instead of causing it to come over.
5. **Scaffold Working Lifts:** and with various questions to ask, when either looking over a scaffolding inspection report, or when carrying out an inspection yourself.
 - are the Scaffold Handrails correctly installed and all in place?
 - are the Scaffold Boards suitable to walk, work and load-out on?
 - is the Scaffolder overloaded, far beyond its intended capacity?
 - has the scaffold been tampered with, or adapted without authorisation?

If for any reason one or more of the above 5 HYPER-Safety Critical elements of the scaffold are showing signs of failing, or being outside of Guidance, or what you might consider "reasonably safe" etc, then the scaffold should be shut down, with immediate effect until the issues can be rectified by a trained and qualified scaffolder, or other expert opinion is received.

Its always better to be safe, than sorry... even more so when scaffolding is concerned.

