

## ULTRA ACCESS

### Scaffolding Tip: "Hemping Up" / "Topping Out"

How to do it safety, and effectively...

Scaffolds can only be built to the maximum height (and length) of its longest tube (usually 21ft / 6.4m) without "joining" them together using preferably **Sleeve Couplers** to increase the size of the scaffold (there are of course other alternatives).

To build the scaffold higher, this process of joining the Tubes (**Standards** / Uprights) together is known as "**Hemping Up** / **Topping Out**" depending on and from which part of the country you are from - there are other names, but we're only going to use the above 2 examples for now.

A simple process, and one that occurs day in day out hundreds if not thousands of times a day in the scaffolding industry.

As demonstrated clearly by **NASC's SG4:22** pictographic attached within the publication (Tube highlighted in **Yellow**).

There are however considerable risks associated in carrying out this common practice... with no real feasible alternative other than to carry as we have done for the best part of 100 years.

So, considerations must be made and allowed for **BEFORE** attempting to "Hemp Up" your Standard ready for the next Lift.

Safety, after all - specifically "**Duty of Care**" **is the responsibility of ALL whilst at work**, not just the Principal Contractor and their chosen Sub-Contractors.



Ask yourself, before you get ready to "Top Out" your Tube:

- Is the area immediately around you clear of unsuspecting workers, do they know what you're attempting to do and the risks involved?
- Are there suitable exclusion zones in place?
- Are there any members of the public, that could be injured, or in worst case scenarios killed due to you "losing the Hemp" or cars, vehicles etc that could be damaged?
- What tubes are you using to "Hemp Up" with? Can you achieve the same result with a shorter and lighter scaffold tube? - **Do you have to use a 21ft tube?**
- Is the Sleeve Coupler "loose" enough on the open end to comfortably slide the hemp in?
- Is there anything that could distract you?
- Could you not pick up the next Lift with a 10ft, will that also not mess up your staggers?
- Will either wearing gloves or not, themselves cause the act of "Hemping Up" to become more dangerous?
- Is the sun in your eyes impairing your vision? ... and the main question...

**ARE YOU EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO DO THIS???** - there's no shame in getting a little help.

**ULTRA ACCESS** recommends that you only attempt this, if you are have the experience, strength and confidence to do so, using a length of tube that is comfortable in your grasp, with your back straight, legs and feet apart, head back - a strong core posture and without trying to "show off" and lift beyond your physical capabilities.

**Its not worth the risk...**

ULTRA ACCESS  
Scaffold Technical Support

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