

ULTRA ACCESS

“Working at Height” and the “Scaffolders’ Safe Zone”

How to define and understand phrase - and keep yourself TG Compliant

Here in the Britain, under the Work at Height Regulations 2005 (WAHR), “**Working at Height**” is officially defined as:

- work in any place where, if precautions were not taken, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury.

That’s the exact legal wording - no fixed height, no “two-metre rule” myth. If you can fall and hurt yourself, it counts as “**Working at Height**” - full stop.

Of course, working locations like; roofs, scaffolds, mobile towers, MEWPs, ladders, edges of loading bays, even standing on a low platform with no edge protection is classed as “**Working at Height**”, which is widely understood.

However, it also covers working below ground level.

Digging a deep trench or excavation? - if someone at ground level could fall in and get injured, that’s classed as “**Working at Height**” too.

Doesn’t matter if you’re 20m up in the air or 2m down in a ditch - if you can fall and hurt yourself, is the same act under UK Health and Safety Law.

NASC’s Safety Guidance - **SG4** is written specifically with the WAHR regs in mind.

And it helps keep the scaffolders as safe as possible, whilst carrying out their scaffolding duties, as “reasonably practicable” as possible - primarily by way of a “**Scaffolders’ Safe Zone**”.



*Image used from current TG Operational Guidance book, owned by NASC

A “**Scaffolders’ Safe Zone**” is a fully boarded working lift with a single Handrail on every exposed edge, including returns and regardless of height, keeping in-line with the WAHR regs.

The safe zone must be installed progressively from the very first lift during erection, maintained throughout all alterations, and removed in reverse during the dismantling process.

Boarding is laid from below upwards, with ladder stages added for safe access and egress, which is especially important if said scaffold needs to be rapidly evacuated in an emergency.

The Handrails - where possible should be installed first, before Boarding begins, however this might not always be possible, so alternative further fall prevention methods would need to be deployed.

Ultimately, remaining compliant with the Working at Height Regulations 2005 is the law, and it also demonstrates that you have attempted to fulfil your legal obligation of “**Duty of Care**”, with the “**Scaffolders’ Safe Zone**” being one of those attempts.