

ULTRA ACCESS Scaffolding Loading Classifications

And how to avoid overloading the scaffold you are using

Not every scaffolding structure is equal, in its build or loading capacity. There are several types of **Scaffold Load Classifications** to consider when one builds a scaffold, and when others start using it, and loading it out for its intended use.

Scaffolding loading capacities are not measured in weight, like Tons or Kilograms, but in Kilonewtons, or kN.

Which is a unit of force in the **International System of Units (SI)**, and is also used in engineering to measure other forces, such as propulsion or thrust.

However with regards to a comparison to weights, **it is generally considered that 1 kN = 1 KG** Using **Scafftag® Colour-Coded Loading Inserts** for the pictorial examples, we can explain further...

A **VERY LIGHT DUTY SCAFFOLD**: is one that can only be rated to **0.75kN / m²** or 1 person (of average weight) every square metre on the scaffold.
Known as **Load Class 1** on standard Scafftag's®



A **LIGHT DUTY SCAFFOLD**: is one that can only be rated to **1.5kN / m²** or 2 persons (of average weight) and very light hand tools every square metre on the scaffold.
Known as **Load Class 2** on standard Scafftag's®



A **GENERAL PURPOSE SCAFFOLD**: is one that can only be rated to **2.0kN / m²** or 2 persons (of average weight) and 50kgs of tools every square metre on the scaffold.
Known as **Load Class 3** on standard Scafftag's®



A **HEAVY DUTY SCAFFOLD**: is one that can only be rated to **3.0kN / m²** or 2 persons (of average weight) and 100kgs of tools or equipment every square metre on the scaffold.
Known as **Load Class 4** on standard Scafftag's®



A **SPECIAL PURPOSE SCAFFOLDS**: are designed scaffolds that fall outside of TG guidance and can take loadings of **many dozens of kN's / m²**.
Known as **Load Classes 5 and 6** on standard Scafftag's® (with the design giving the specific loading calculations).



Scaffolds are usually over-engineered, regardless of TG compliant, or designed ones. However, **overloading a scaffold could not only risk peoples lives, it could also render a contractors insurances invalid**, if said scaffold structures are overloaded on purpose, showing a complete disregard for safety... and its something that every Principal Contractor should consider.