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Explaining Temporary Works

What is it, and when it applies and why...

Temporary Works (TW) are the engineered, non-permanent structures that make modern construction possible. They include formwork, falsework, propping, excavation support - and of course, **scaffolding** - all designed to be erected, used, and removed without trace once the permanent structure stands alone - **and in essence, (almost) everything that is temporary on a construction project could be deemed as coming under Temporary Works.**

Scaffolding exemplifies TW's dual role: it is both access equipment and a load-bearing structure. A typical Independent Scaffold comprises Standards, Ledgers, Transoms, Braces, and Scaffold Ties anchored into the façade in various patterns, vertically and horizontally - depending on the loadings applied or if the structure is cladded.

Both TG Compliance and Scaffold Design structures come under the legal framework of **Temporary Works.**

Regulation 8 of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 states;

- (1) A designer (including a principal designer) or contractor (including a principal contractor) appointed to work on a project must have the skills, knowledge, experience and, where relevant, organisational capability to carry out the work in a way that secures health and safety.
- (2) Where a person is appointed to a role under these Regulations, the person making the appointment must take reasonable steps to ensure that the person appointed has the competence referred to in paragraph (1).
- (3) A person who is carrying out design work must take into account the general principles of prevention when preparing or modifying a design.

Key word is: **COMPETENCE**. Which with a lot of other "health and safety" style language, is fairly and deliberately ambiguous.

So, we would refer back to one of **ULTRA ACCESS's** favour phrases, that has NO ambiguousness whatsoever... which is **DUTY OF CARE**.

And whilst not mandated in Regulation 8, industry best practice recommends the following chain of personnel involvement when carrying out all **Temporary Works**, as per BS 5975:2019...

- A Temporary Works Coordinator (TWC) and/or Supervisor (TWS),
- Designs by competent engineers,
- Category 1, 2, or 3 checks depending on risk,
- Erection by trained personnel (e.g., CISRS trained Scaffolders),

... to demonstrate various levels of competence, and the attempt to achieve the legal obligation of "duty of care".

The **Temporary Works Forum** is a great resource online, with experts from all over the world, gathered to discuss, offer advice and help with improvements to TW best practice, including scaffolding... its definitely worth consulting this site, if you have queries or concerns about Temporary Works.



**Temporary Works
forum**

Promoting best practice in
the construction industry.

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