

ULTRA ACCESS September Newsletter

Scaffold Materials - and how long can you realistically use them

In this month's Newsletter, we would like to raise some awareness of **Scaffolding Materials** - and what the re-use value is, of each type, before it becomes a safety issue, due to deterioration through wear and tear and weathering.

Obviously, its stock re-use value, is what makes scaffolding a commercially attractive business to invest in and build, with overheads and labour only being the usual costs to consider, once one has purchased x-amount of stock / **Scaffolding Materials** required to facilitate their clients needs on site.



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

When stock loses value over time, this is a process known as - **Depreciation**. Scaffold Material / stock depreciation isn't just a concept. Its an actual term that refers to the depreciation of a scaffolding contractors assets (which would also include things like fixed buildings, and plant - like lorries, vans and fork-trucks, etc.

Materials like, Scaffolding Tubes have a VERY long re-use value, providing they are not cut down, tampered with, or left exposed in the elements to rot and become weakened by rust. This re-use value is what makes a scaffolding contractor its projected high profits (assuming that the management of the scaffolders is on point and they "cover their money" out on site)

ULTRA ACCESS would guess that the certain materials below have the following reusability value of (if said materials are not tampered with, cut, or otherwise abused);

- **Scaffold Tubes** - 10+ years of constant reuse.
- **Scaffold Boards** - 3-5 years of constant reuse, providing they are stored suitably, when not in use - somewhere dry, cool and out of direct sunlight.
- **Scaffold Fittings** - 3-5 years of constant reuse, providing they are maintained and oiled regularly.
- **Scaffold Ladders, Gates and Hatches** - 2-3 years of constant reuse, as they will overtime become damaged due to wear and tear, regardless.
- **Scaffold Beams** - 5-7 years of constant reuse, with the welds within eventually succumbing to rust over time.
- **Cladding, ie; Monarflex Sheeting and Debris Netting** - 2-3 single uses MAX, depending on how they are installed, removed and stored between uses.
- **Consumables, ie; Foam, Caps, Nipples, Safety Signs, etc** - possibly a handful of times each, depending on again, how they are stored when not in use, etc or lost, due to their size.

In short: **look after your materials, store them correctly - out of the rain, snow, sunlight and out of damp places to minimise rot**, and if you have to cut any, then make sure that you incorporate that possible loss into your prices for next time.

The re-use value is what earns a scaffolding contractor their bread and butter profit.