

ULTRA ACCESS

Scaffold Handovers and first / initial Inspections

The differences, the law and the best way to do them...

What are **Scaffolding Handovers**:

A "Scaffolding Handover" is the formal process where a completed scaffold structure is inspected, approved as safe to use, and officially transferred from the Scaffolding Contractor to the Principal Contractor / PC or "end-user".

It typically involves a **Handover Certificate**, either as handwritten sheet on a specifically produced duplication pad, or in digital format.

The some of the information they should include are;

- Date of Handover,
- Client name, along with the address / location of the scaffold,
- Name of the Scaffolding Contractor who built the structure, their address, etc,
- TG compliant / design information, along with the scaffolding type,
- Safe loadings of the scaffold, usually in both kN/M² and a more "layman's term" description - ie; 5t max loading / 3 people and tools per square m, etc,
- Supplementary information, like the name of the person "handing the scaffold over", regulations quoted, inspection regime, and any other safety info, etc.
- ... and the first / initial **Scaffolding Inspection Report** should be either built in to, or accompanying this certificate.

ULTRA ACCESS always recommends digital over written for various reasons; like the inclusion of photos with the accompanying inspection report.

Once the Handover has been accepted, this would generally begin the hire period of the scaffold, also - for billing / invoicing proposed, and to help calculate extra hire, etc.

Scaffold Handovers are NOT legal requirements under Health and Safety Law, however the initial handover inspection is, along with each inspection thereafter.

The first / initial Inspection should be thorough.

It should be in fact the most detailed inspection carried out, in the life cycle of the structure, so that every issue / concern can be highlighted, noted, and if needs be; put right **BEFORE** the Handover Certificate is sent to the PC.

It's a double edged sword... as the Scaffolding Contractor is morally and legally obligated to provide a safe, usable scaffold, built to within a recognised standard; eg: **NASC's** TG Guidance, or designed.

But if the PC blindly accepts the Handover, without checking the structure, then they could lose any legal arguments, later in court, if the worse happens and there is a serious accident of incident due to said scaffold.



In short: The handover, where important for invoicing / timescale purposes, is not a legal requirement - and the initial inspection **SHOULD** be taken slowly, and carried out in great detail.

Ultimately, its always better to check and double-check before either sending or accepting any Scaffolding Handover Certificate.