



Risk Assessment

This is an 'open' form which should be completed in conjunction with the person responsible for the work - project supervisor in charge. For assistance refer to the 50plus head office.

Working at height recommendations, H&S policy and HSE documentation is provided on the 50plus web site at /www.the50plus.co.uk/knowledge-centre.php.

Note that for any working at height a minimum of two personnel must be present at any time.

Process being assessed

Erecting and using scaffold towers

Hazards

Erecting a tower

- Tower is unstable through incorrect construction
- Tower is unstable through being too high
- Tower is unsafe for users or passers by method of construction
- Tower is unstable during construction

Using a tower

- Gaining access to the tower
- Users falling from height
- Materials and tools falling from height
- Collapse of tower through overloading
- Collapse or instability of tower through moving it
- Hazards for people below the tower

Competence of personnel

Reducing Risk

Erecting a tower

- Tower is unstable through incorrect construction
 - Anyone erecting a tower must initially be shown how to by a competent person and must follow the instructions supplied with the tower and know how to put the components together correctly.
 - The tower must not be constructed so that it overhangs its base at any point
- Tower is unstable through being too high
 - The height of the highest working platform on towers for indoor use must not exceed 3.5 x the width of the base on its shortest side.

- Tower is unsafe for users or passers by, by method of construction
 - Where practical towers should be constructed with a toe board around the working platforms to prevent materials and tools being knocked off
 - The highest platform should have a rail around it high enough to allow users to hold it without stooping when on the platform
- Tower is unstable during construction
 - Constructors should not use unstable parts of the tower already constructed to support them while constructing higher parts. Use stepladders instead.
 - More than one person should be involved in erecting a tower due to the awkward nature of the components.
 - The outside of the tower should not be used for gaining access to the higher parts

Using a tower

- Gaining access to the tower
 - Check the wheels are all locked before attempting to get onto a tower
 - Users should not climb the outside of the tower. An internal ladder passing through a trapdoor inside the tower should be included in the construction.
- Users falling from height
 - A harness will not prevent injury if a user falls from a tower as it is likely their weight will cause the tower to topple. Do not use a harness.
 - Ensure there is a rail at comfortable hand height around the platforms
 - Do not reach more than arms length beyond the sides of the tower and ensure the legs and torso remain inside the rail around the platform
- Materials and tools falling from height onto people below
 - Keep tools and materials in bags to prevent them being kicked off and forming tripping hazards while working on the platform.
 - If practical use wristbands for tools to prevent them falling if they are inadvertently dropped
- Collapse of tower through overloading
 - Observe the safe working loads, which are stated on the tower.
 - Take into account the entire load to be borne - operators and equipment.
 - Different maximum loads apply to the structure and the platforms
- Collapse or instability of tower through moving it
 - The tower should be empty of users and equipment when being moved
 - There should be two people to help move the tower
 - Lock the wheels before using it after moving the tower
- Hazards for people below the tower
 - There will still be the potential for something to fall from the tower even if reasonable precautions are taken against it. Cordon off the area below the tower where passers bay or other workers should not enter when the tower is in use.

Competence of personnel

At least one person on site and who erects a tower should familiar with the process.

Anyone may use a tower providing they have been trained by a person competent to erect a tower and have read this assessment.

Staff should be supervised by the competent person until they are competent.

Management of Procedures

The nominated project supervisor is responsible for the site safety and ensuring this risk assessment is adhered to.

Signatures

Person completing

- Print name: _____

- Sign: _____ date: _____

Person responsible

- Print name: _____

- Sign: _____ date: _____