

HSE Good Order Campaign February 2006

Just as in all other parts of the construction industry, the biggest cause of accidents to scaffolders is not falls, which always attract the headlines for obvious reasons, but slips & trips. And it's precisely at this stage of the discussion that people normally switch off and go and read something more interesting instead. After all we know everything there is to know about trips don't we? It's just common sense isn't it?

Well if it were so simple why has it remained the biggest cause of accidents in the industry for so many years?



Every year nearly 3,000 construction workers are seriously injured on site following a trip. Around 1,000 of these accidents involve someone fracturing one or more bones or dislocating a joint. Some of these will be permanently disabled. One or two people each year die following trip accidents on sites in the UK.

Simple trip accidents result in workers like those you employ having to leave the industry. That not only undoubtedly causes considerable problems for the individuals concerned but also for the industry itself. Many of those workers will have had expensive training (hopefully) and their competence and knowledge is obviously the

core resource within your businesses. Can you really afford to waste it for something as simple as a trip?

The stupid thing is that most of these accidents could be avoided if everyone on site just did their bit to make the place safer. It's an old cliché but it really is in everyone's interest to keep the sites you work on in good order. The job can be done quicker, more easily and without the risk that workers like yours will get seriously injured. It really is a win-win situation, it should even improve the bottom line.

The big problem you face of course is that you're not normally in control of the environment where you're expected to work. Often the site will have changed between the pricing visit (if there was one) by the estimator, and the gang arriving on the site. This makes it even more important that the gangs know what the risks are, and what to do if they arrive on site and find themselves confronted by a mudbath to rival the Somme, or a virtual Mount Eiger between the wagon and the plot.

You should have clear policies in place to deal with such situations, which we all know are frighteningly common. It's not good enough to simply blame the principal contractor and carry on working anyway. You have a clear legal responsibility to your employees to provide them with a safe place of work, even if it is on someone else's site.

The other side of the coin of course is that subcontract trades, such as your own, often create many of the trip hazards on a site by, for example, stacking pallets of tubes on footpaths or leaving piles of clips around the base of the scaffold. Don't forget, your responsibilities don't end with the risks to your own workforce. You also have to make sure that your activities don't endanger anyone else.

The NASC annual report illustrates that you as a group have identified trips as a prime concern for a number of years. It's now time for some concerted action. It's clearly no use identifying the biggest problem and then doing little about it.

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Chairman's Column

A very happy new year to you all from the NASC Health & Safety committee and myself.

It's a time of significant uncertainty and change within the scaffolding industry. The NASC itself has become a larger, more formalised organization, run by professional staff. I think that's right if the NASC is to continue to grow and thrive in these challenging times. At the same time we are seeing a burgeoning of health and safety legislation - particularly affecting companies working within our sector of industry - all the more reason why we need a strong team at the centre.

Having a Managing Director, staff and a Council structure allows the Health and Safety Committee to step back a bit and take a strategic view of what we're doing. It means we can focus more clearly on our job of keeping the NASC to our stated aims - our Health and Safety Charter and the reduction of accidents and ill-health.

Over the past year we have begun to diversify the membership of the committee by approaching people from outside the immediate circle of the NASC and inviting them to be co-opted onto the committee. We have recently asked Justine Lee of the HSE to join the committee and Chris Barrett of the CITB is now a valued member. We have done this for a purpose, to both increase the range of perspectives of the members of the committee and to widen the areas of influence for the NASC.

Chairman's Column continued on back page

HSE is going to be doing its bit by carrying out a site Good Order Campaign in February 2006.

Throughout that month HSE's construction inspectors will be visiting sites around the country assessing how well they are managing good order. Where there is clearly inadequate management of the risks they will be using their powers to protect the wellbeing of those working on the sites.

The supporting publicity material will be available through HSE's website by mid-January, and will include a free DVD toolbox talk on the subject.

I would encourage all your members to take a look at the material, and then give some thought to what more they can do to reduce the risks to their workers and others.

The NASC would like to thank Nic Rigby of the HSE for producing this article.

Scaffolding Handover Certificates

Whilst there is no statutory requirement for a scaffold contractor to issue a handover certificate, clients may, in their own interest, require that the scaffold contractor does issue one.

Once the scaffold contractor has completed the erection of a scaffold and a competent person has inspected it, it is important for them to issue a Handover Certificate to their client. This will advise their client that, at the time of the handover, the scaffold had been built to their specification, it had been left in a condition suitable to perform the duty for which it was intended, it complied with the requirements of statutory regulations and any local authority requirements, was structurally sound and in a condition that was safe for use.

Name of client, date & time of handover.


Description of scaffold or section of scaffold handed over. Add drawing ref. where applicable.

Detail the number and type of ties installed and tested.

Complete type of duty and load capacity.
e.g. General Purpose
1 working lift @ 2.0 kN/m²
1 working lift @ 1.0 kN/m²

Give details of any non-compliance.

Sign the certificate on behalf of the company. The client should sign for acceptance. If the client is not available, the supervisor should fax a copy to the clients office. Once complete, the top copy is issued to the client and the bottom copy is for the company supervisor.



HANDING OVER CERTIFICATE - SCAFFOLDING

Client / Contractor: Date:

Site: Time:

Description of section handed over

.....

Drawing No:
(where applicable)

Type of ties: No. of ties: No. of ties tested:

Scaffolding as described above has now been completed in accordance with client requirements. It is structurally sound and should only be used and loaded in accordance with our Quotation No: (.....)

a) Use only for: Duty

b) Loading to be: 1 Working Lift @ kN/m² and 1 Working Lift @ kN/m²
..... Working Lifts @ kN/m²/Lift

The detailed requirement of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 with regard to guardrails - working platforms - toeboards - bracing and ties have been complied with. YES NO

Description of any non-compliance with the work at height regulations

.....

In order to comply with Regulation 12 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, this scaffold must be inspected before first use, every 7 days, and after any event likely to have affected its strength or stability and after any substantial addition, dismantling or other alteration. In order to comply with Regulation 12 (7), particulars of each inspection must be recorded in a Report of Inspection.

It is also the responsibility of every employer under Regulation 3 to ensure that the requirements of the Regulation which apply to their own employees are complied with.

This Scaffold has / has not (delete as appropriate) been designed to take sheeting/debris netting (or other windsails).

Signature on behalf of Scaffold Contractor: Print Name:

Name of Scaffold Contractor/Depot:

Signature on behalf of the Client/Contractor: Print Name:

OR

Certificate despatched to Client/Contractor by post/fax: (date).

NOTE: IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE OF THIS CERTIFICATE.

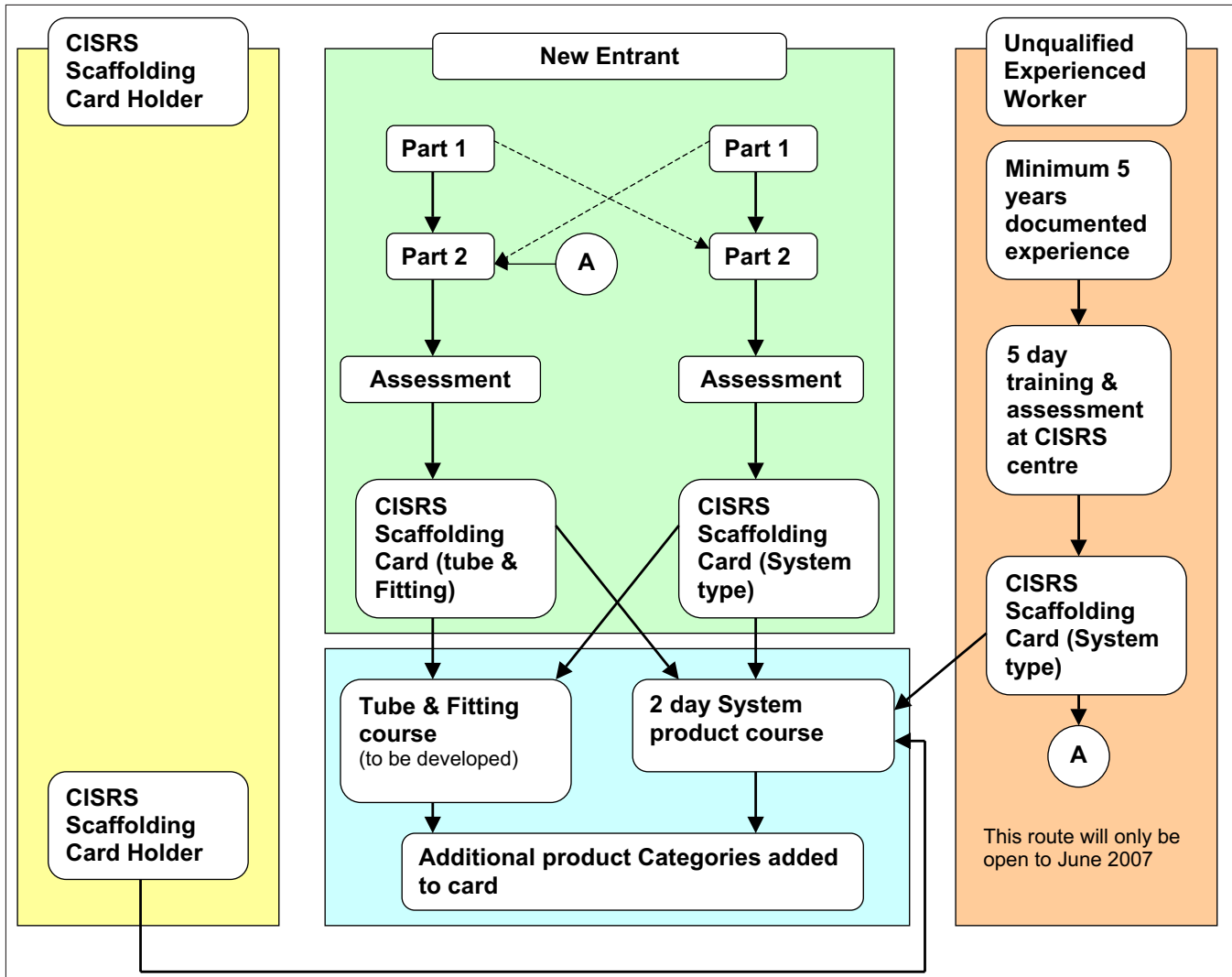
New NASC Handover Certificates are now available for use by member companies.

Training for the Future

Systems Scaffold Training

The NASC Training committee (Access and Scaffolding Industry Training Organisation) has another very busy year ahead in 2006. Under the chairmanship of Mr Bob Whincap they have finally managed to make some positive steps towards providing CISRS training for Systems Scaffolding. Interested parties from both sides of the divide are now aiming to work together to produce formal training, which will allow a route to a CISRS qualification for those operatives using prefabricated systems.

There will be 3 routes available to becoming qualified in systems scaffolding. The first will look at product training for existing tube and fitting CISRS cardholders. This will take the form of a 2-day product familiarisation course. The second route looks at new entrants into the industry who wish to specialise in systems scaffolding rather than tube and fitting. CISRS will be making the normal training route (Part 1 Part 2, VQ etc) available in approved prefabricated systems. Thirdly we will be looking at an Assessed Route of Entry for experienced but unqualified systems scaffolders. This route will only be available for a limited time period and delegates will only be accepted on the course if they have a minimum of 5 years provable experience (please see flowchart).



Time is of the essence in this project and a consultant is already in place developing the course and the associated literature needed to deliver the training. Our aim is to have the courses available within the first quarter of 2006.

The Training Group and the systems manufacturers have also agreed to meet in the New Year to look at the development of CISRS systems training for operatives who may occasionally erect systems but are not full time scaffolders.

Training for Supervisors

Further CISRS training, which will be available early in 2006, is Supervision and Inspection of Scaffolding Operations. This will be an intensive 5-Day course. The course will provide the delegate with the essential knowledge and practical skills to carry out their supervisory role effectively. This will be achieved through classroom based learning, project work, role-play, assessment and physical

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inspection of scaffolding structures. The topics covered include essential regulations, risk assessment, method statements, communication, scaffold inspection, estimating, best use of time, materials and manpower etc.

S/NVQ Assessment

The Group is looking at S/NVQ assessment procedures and is developing a system of recording work-based evidence that will be much less onerous than it is currently. CISRS will introduce a 4-day skills test/assessment, which would cover the structures contained in the VQ. If the delegate is successful in the practical tests they will be signed off and issued with their card. This would make the qualification much more heavily based upon the delegate's practical skills rather than producing masses of paperwork. For those who are happy producing the VQ portfolio this option will also remain.

Kiss your ASRE goodbye

In June 2006 the CISRS Assessed Route of Entry will be withdrawn. The ASRE was introduced in 1996 as a short-term solution to qualifying experienced tube and fitting scaffolders that had not completed CISRS training. The course was initially introduced for a 2-year period but will be into its 10th year in 2006. The feeling is that this has been seen as some as an excuse not to put their operatives through the normal training programme. **If you have experienced but unqualified scaffolders working for you contact the nearest CISRS training provider immediately as the remaining courses are booked up for months in advance.**

CISRS Cards

The coming year is a very important one for the NASC, ASITO and the CISRS Scheme. Not only do they need to manage the implementation of the new training courses outlined above, they are also entering the second card renewal period. CISRS currently have around 18,000 cardholders. However, over 7,500 of those are due for renewal in 2006. The last 18 months has seen a proliferation of independent training providers emerging offering courses of varying quality in "Scaffolding training" these have often been to the detriment of the CISRS scheme. The CISRS card scheme has been in place for over 30 years and it is still the industry recognised scaffolding qualification. The NASC, HSE & MCG etc need to make sure that it remains so. The training group strongly urge the membership to keep supporting CISRS training and to renew all operative cards that expire this year. A card can be renewed 6 months prior to the expiry date, so what is stopping you?

Chairman's Column continued

I also intend to try and improve communication between committee members and members of other standing committees so that we plan better together and speak with a united voice.

I have set up an e-mail address for members to be able communicate directly with the Chair. I want this to be a way of keeping me and the committee informed about our members' views which complements the excellent work done by the NASC full time staff on communicating what you're thinking and what our members are expecting. If you have opinions or questions which relate to the work of the committee I'd be very pleased to hear from you via this medium. (Contact: health&safetychair@nasc.org.uk)

I also think it's important we move scaffolding into the mainstream of debate on health and welfare. We are increasingly being reminded that improvements in health and welfare mean improvements across a wide range of areas such as safety and productivity. I fully expect the HSE to turn their attention to our health and welfare performance once we get 'safety' right.

If we are to get the Committee's direction right we need your views on where you think the committee should be going over the next five years. We will be playing a significant role in the transformation of our industry from the synonym for all that was bad in the construction industry to a mature and responsible industry that exemplifies best practices. I hope that all of you will be able to contribute to our thinking.



**Des Daly BA(Hons), Dip He,
Dip2.OSH, MIOSH**

**Chairman NASC Health and
Safety Committee**



Fact File

Did you know that during their working life the average scaffolder will handle 90,000 Tonnes of material/scaffolding equipment.

This equates to:

180,000,000 metres of scaffold tube

54,000,000 scaffold fittings

4,000,000 scaffold boards

or

The USS NIMITZ