

Temporary access platforms

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Industrial processes are regulated by the Environment Agency/SEPA/regulatory authorities through authorisations or permits issued under Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) or Pollution and Prevention Control (PPC) Regulations. These place requirements on an operator to provide a safe and normally permanent means of access to enable monitoring to be carried out at specified release points. However in exceptional circumstances, for example, at an old installation where limited access prevents the installation of a permanent platform, temporary structures (such as scaffolding) may be used.



All platforms, whether permanent or temporary, should meet the minimum weight criteria required for sampling. This is defined as 400kg point load in BS EN 13284-1:2002 and for permanent platforms is achievable. However, temporary, scaffold platforms cannot be constructed to this specification and

Scafftag Categories		
Very light duty	to 0.75 kN/m ²	(75kg/m ²)
General purpose	to 2.0 kN/m ²	(202kg/m ²)
Heavy duty	to 2.5 kN/m²	(252kg/m²)
Special purposes	must state safe kN/m ²	

must, instead, be constructed to a specific minimum "Scafftag" category of "heavy duty" or meet the requirements stated in the monitoring standard, whichever is the greater. Temporary platforms must also be tied to, or supported by, a permanent structure.

Mobile access platforms, "cherry pickers" or ladders



Sampling from mobile access platforms, "cherry pickers" or ladders is unacceptable. The STA has issued this guidance since its inception. One of the reasons for this is that with the type of equipment and number of personnel required for stack testing makes this means of access unsafe and does not provide quick emergency evacuation away from the location and or the equipment.



Sampling from roofs or tops of arrestment equipment

Sampling from roofs or the tops of arrestment equipment, vessels and ducts is unacceptable unless they have been assessed as being suitable by meeting the requirements for platforms described in this Note and the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

The platform and access must meet all current legislative requirements regarding dimensions and construction, be maintained to a safe standard and undergo regular inspection by a competent person. For scaffolding, a properly completed and dated "Scafftag" is one means of demonstrating and recording this inspection.

Inspections and minimum requirements

The Work at Height Regulations place specific duties on the employer to carry out inspections of work equipment and pre-use checks of places of work. Working platforms and associated guard rails, barriers, toe-boards, ladders etc, should be inspected in line with STA Work at Height Guidance Note WAH001.

The platform shall be provided with handrails and kick-boards that meet the requirements of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, (Regulation 13) for permanent platforms and the Health and Safety in Construction Regulations (HS(G)150) for temporary platforms.

Where the selected sample plane is located in a horizontal section of a large rectangular duct, and where some of the sample points are positioned above a convenient and safe working height (nominally 1.75m maximum for sample probe handling), it will be necessary to provide a dual-level sampling

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platform of adequate design so that sampling staff can carry out the full range of sampling requirements in a safe and satisfactory manner.

Note: performing monitoring in horizontal sections of very large circular ducts presents severe practical difficulties in obtaining access to all sample points. Such situations should be avoided.

Reference Documents

Environment Agency Technical Guidance Note M1 Sampling requirements for stack-emission monitoring

Work at Height Regulations 2005. Statutory Instrument No. 735. ISBN 0 11 0725638. HMSO.

BS EN 13824:2002 *Stationary source emissions – Determination of low range mass concentration of dust – Part 1 Manual gravimetric method.*

BS EN ISO 14122-1: 2001, Safety of machinery – Permanent means of access to machines and industrial plants – Part 1: Choice of a fixed means of access between two levels.

BS EN ISO 14122-2: 2001, Safety of machinery – Permanent means of access to machines and industrial plants – Part 2: Working platforms and gangways.

BS EN ISO 14122-3: 2001, Safety of machinery – Permanent means of access to machines and industrial plants – Part 3: Stairways, stepladders and guard-rails.

BS EN ISO 14122-4: 1996, Safety of machinery – Permanent means of access to machines and industrial plants – Part 4: Fixed ladders.