TOOLBOX TALK

SG4 COMPLIANCE IN THE SCAFFOLDING INDUSTRY

SG4 is a key NASC guidance document that helps prevent falls and promote safety in scaffolding operations. Recognised as industry best practice, it helps scaffolders work safely at height and reduces the risk of serious accidents.

What is SG4?

SG4 provides comprehensive guidance for working at height with scaffolding, focusing on safe construction, use, and maintenance. It is used widely by scaffolders, inspectors, and safety professionals to promote best practices and ensure safety standards are met.

Why is SG4 Important?

Falls from height account for nearly half of all fatal construction accidents. SG4 has contributed to an 87% reduction in falls among NASC members since 1999. Following SG4 helps us comply with legal requirements and reduces the risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities on site.

Key Principles of SG4:

Establish a Safe Zone

- Always create a fully boarded platform with guardrails around all exposed edges.
- The safe zone should be maintained throughout the project and guardrails left in place.

Clipping On:

Within the safe zone, scaffolders can work unclipped but fall arrest equipment must remain readily available. Outside the safe zone, proper fall arrest gear must always be used.

Access and Egress

- Never climb scaffold tubes or braces; always use the designated access points.
- Avoid standing on beams or tubes at any time.

Boarding Out and Guardrails

- All lifts should be boarded from below.
- Guardrails must be fitted before access is gained
- at each level.
- Boards should be fully supported with no trap ends.

Dismantling Safely

- Remove the scaffold in reverse order of erection.
- Remove guardrails and boards progessively and in sequence.

Rescue Planning

- A rescue plan must be in place before work begins.
- It should clearly define how to rescue an injured person safely and efficiently.

System Scaffolding Decking

- Install decking on every lift to facilitate safe installation and removal.
- Use assembly aids to avoid climbing the structure during deck installation.

Conclusion

SG4 helps reduce the risk of falls by ensuring safe working practices are followed at all times. By maintaining safe zones, using the correct access methods, securing guardrails and planning rescues, we can work safely and protect ourselves and our colleagues.

Remember: safety is everyone's responsibility. Follow SG4 guidance at all times.

BRIEFING ATTENDANCE
SG4 COMPLIANCE IN THE SCAFFOLDING INDUSTRY

Given by		**Signature**	
Site Location		**Date**	
Start Time		**Finish Time**	

I HAVE READ OR HAVE BEEN BRIEFED AND UNDERSTAND THE BRIEFING THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME

Name	Position	Date	Signature

Return to Training Dept.
Training Department Action

Recorded ☐ Training Matrix ☐ Documents Filed Date: .....

FEEDBACK ON SUBJECT

NOTE TO SUPERVISOR: PLEASE GIVE ANY FEEDBACK FROM TOOLBOX TALK TO THE SAFETY DEPARTMENT; THANKS.