

Safety and health alert

08/03 Trip hazard

Incident

A worker sustained significant injuries to his left arm and shoulder when he tripped over a scaffold standard protruding from the working platform. The protruding standard could not be seen due to building blocks that were stacked on the platform.

The inside standard of the modular scaffold system being used would normally be against the wall. However, in this case, a hop-up bracket was used to increase the width of the working platform.

The inside standard ended up in the position shown in the photograph above, where it was protruding from the working platform, thus creating a tripping hazard.

Factors

Scaffolding must be erected or dismantled in accordance with Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS1576 Parts 1-6.

Where practicable the working platform should be level and free of trip hazards.

Recommendations

In similar situations steps must be taken to highlight the trip hazard. This could be achieved by extending the standards so they are clearly visible or by placing "witches hats" or similar over the standards.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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