

## **Podium Platforms**

**In recent years, there has been a move away from ladders, including stepladders.**

**This is because they fall near the bottom of the work at height hierarchy, as there is normally more suitable equipment.**

**One type of alternative equipment now in common use is podium steps – however, issues can still arise if podium steps are not used properly and with respect.**

- Make sure your work area and floor surface is suitable – clear, no openings and level, not inclined/sloped.
- There are many different types of podium steps – make sure you have one that gives you the platform height you need, without having to overreach, or climb on the guardrails.
- With these many different types, make sure you have all the right components and the manufacturer's instructions – read the instructions.
- Some common issues:-
  - Always shut the gate
  - Always position the wheels/casters outwards (away from the centre of the steps) to make as wide as possible
  - Always lock the wheels
  - Don't overreach or use sideways force – they may be more stable than stepladders but they are not as stable as a traditional scaffold tower and they still overturn – beware.
  - Do not move whilst anybody is on the steps

### **Question:**

- 1 What are the common issues with this type of equipment?

### **Remember**

**As with many things, a good bit of kit used properly  
– but can catch you out**

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Sections 7 & 28