

Tower Scaffolds

Every year, many people are killed or injured falling from tower scaffolds. Those accidents involving tower scaffolds are mainly due to poor standards of erection and misuse.

- Interserve require a temporary works design check for freestanding towers where the working platform is above 12m, or there is any form of “sheeting” on the tower, or the tower is sited externally.
- Nobody can erect, modify or dismantle a tower scaffold without a current PASMA card.
- Prefabricated access towers must be erected in accordance with the PASMA guidelines and the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Inspect all of the tower’s components before use.
- Towers must only be used on level surfaces. Where ground is soft or sloping, adequate support must be provided.
- Maximum platform heights will be detailed in the manufacturer’s instructions – using the stabilisers as necessary.
- Before using, ensure complete, Scafftag in place, all wheels are locked.
- Proprietary steel or aluminium alloy towers have a variety of means of access, examples are:-
 - Integral diagonal stairway, as well as providing access, this will form part of the bracing of the tower.
 - Ladder units incorporated into the end frame.
- Do not pull heavy items up the side of the tower.
- Access is from the inside of the tower frame to avoid pulling the tower over. Working platforms are provided with trap doors – always close after use.
- Before moving the tower, make sure there is nobody or any materials on the tower.
- Do not use ladders from platforms of towers to gain extra height, you will make the tower unstable.

Questions:

- 1 Who may erect a mobile tower scaffold?
- 2 What is the right way to access a tower scaffold?
- 3 What checks would you make before using a mobile tower scaffold??

Remember:

**A tower scaffold will provide you with a safe working platform
If you don’t abuse it!**

Further Information CIP Manual, Section 7
 IPSL Card L106