

WORKING AT HEIGHT (Scaffold Towers) Risk Folder 10c pages 12 & 27

At Dowse Haulage, we recognize that sometimes, Stools, Steps or ladders are not suitable for certain jobs due to the length of time a member of staff spends on one or having to use both hands,

Therefore, a DIY mobile scaffolding Tower has been purchased which can be built by a competent person i.e. a Fitter or Driver if the need arises.

We also have a custom-built platform ladder which is used for reaching the top of Bulk powder tanks when they are either being inspected or cleaned.

On induction staff are required to read the Working at height guide.

Using a Scaffolding Tower

You need to be competent to build, inspect, use and dismantle a tower this is usually done by a qualified fitter.

The following are all essential safety features that should be supplied upon purchase or hire of the tower:

- purpose built platforms with trapdoor entry and exit. There must be enough platforms so that they can be installed at 2m height intervals during assembly and dismantling.
- guardrails fitted all the way around every platform at a minimum height of 950mm and with a maximum 470mm vertical gap between the guardrails and the platform
- a built-in access ladder or staircase for safe ascent and descent
- 4 stabilisers of the correct size for the height of the tower
- toe boards to prevent the fall of any materials
- user instructions which show one of the two recognised safe assembly and dismantling methods

You should use one of the 2 recognised safe methods to assemble and dismantle a tower:

- Advance Guardrail (AGR). Guardrail side frames are put in place in advance of anyone getting onto the platform. They are put in place from ground level for the first platform level, and from the protected position of a platform below for the higher platform levels.
- Through the Trap (3T). Guardrails are put in place before stepping onto the platform. The operator positions themselves within the open trap door, seated on the platform, from where they install or remove the guardrails.

Once the tower is built it must be inspected by a competent person (usually a workshop fitter)

- before it is first used
- at suitable intervals depending on the environment and use
- every time something happens that may affect its stability or safety

Competence.

In the case of low-risk, short duration tasks involving ladders, competence requirements may be no more than making sure employees receive instruction on how to use the equipment safely and appropriate training. Training often takes place on the job, it does not always take place in a classroom.

When a more technical level of competence is required, for example drawing up a plan for assembling a complex scaffold, existing training and certification schemes drawn up by trade associations and industry is one way to help demonstrate competence.

Remember,

When your second foot leaves the ground, work at height rules apply.
Use a stool or stepladder where necessary and three points of contact.