

TG13:16

Non-Standard Boarded Platform



INTRODUCTION

This guide considers working platforms, which have additional requirements over those that are normally provided on an access scaffold.

The *Work at Height Regulations* require platforms to be constructed without gaps unless measures have been taken to protect people from falling through them, and to prevent the risk of injury from materials or other objects falling through.

Platforms with inside boards will normally require a gap of 50mm to accommodate the standards between the main platform and the inner platform. This gap is normally acceptable, but it may be covered if deemed appropriate by the risk assessment. There are a number of proprietary products available and advice on their use should be sought from the manufacturers.

Other than the gap between the main platform and the inside boards, gaps wider than 25mm should not normally be present in a platform, although larger gaps may be deemed acceptable by a risk assessment.

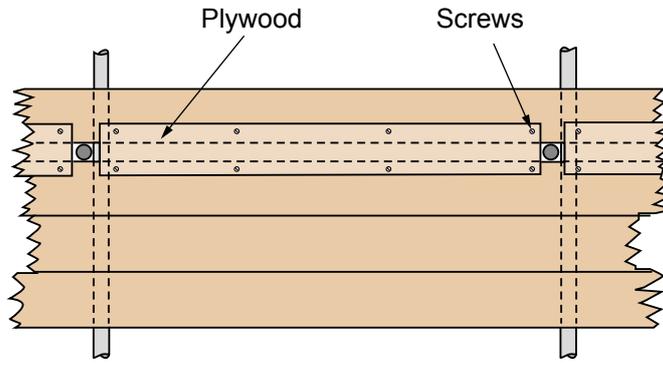
GAPS/ INFILLS LESS THAN A BOARD WIDTH

Any gap in a platform work area which is clearly a hazard will have to be covered, usually by plywood fixed firmly to the adjacent boards. An alternative is to use a piece of solid timber. This implies a piece of 38mm C24 grade timber of the right width to fix in the gap - NOT shown in figures. Care is however necessary to ensure that this additional timber is adequately supported. A detail of the alternative plywood cover system is shown in sketch A, with fixings on sketch E.

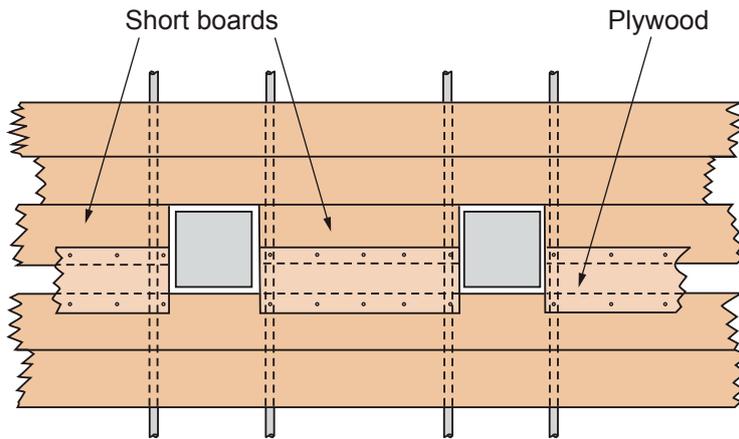
GAPS LARGER THAN A BOARD WIDTH

When the platform has to be formed around a large object, e.g. concrete column, several different methods of completing the platform are available. Sketches B, C and D show three typical methods. In all cases it is essential to ensure that all the cut length boards are adequately supported and fixed down where there is a risk of lifting or becoming dislodged. For larger circular columns it may be necessary to cover the gaps that occur around the column.



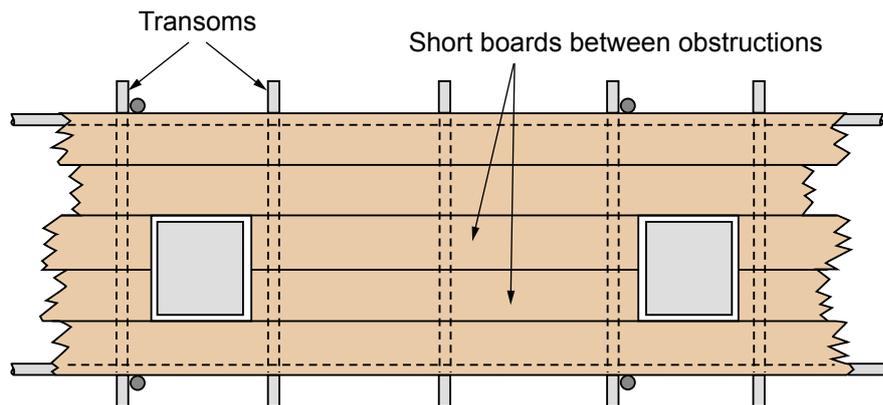


Sketch A

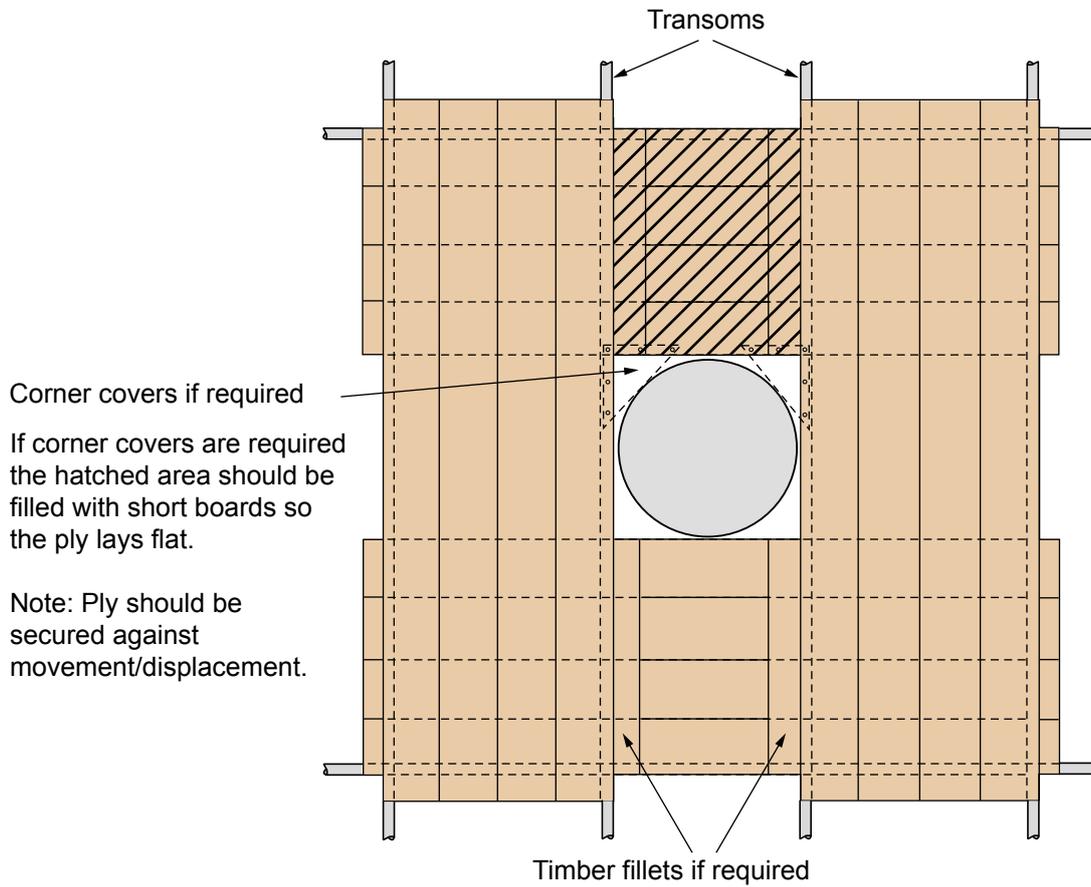


Note: All short boards should be secured against movement/displacement

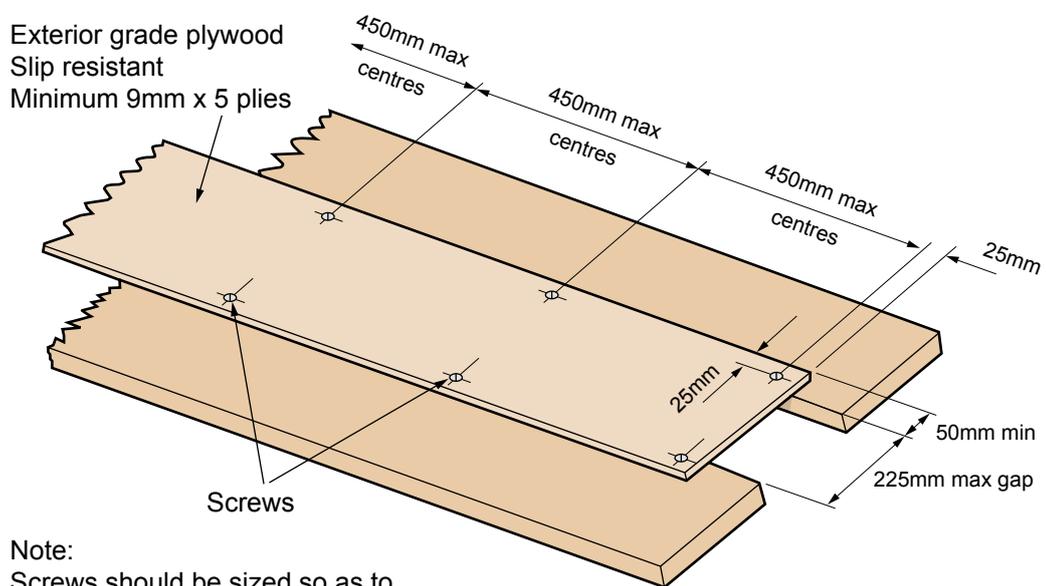
Sketch B



Sketch C



Sketch D



Note:
Screws should be sized so as to **NOT** protrude through the boards.

Sketch E – Typical Plywood Fixing Details

Whilst every effort has been made to provide reliable and accurate information, we would welcome any corrections to information provided by the Writer which may not be entirely accurate, therefore and for this reason, the NASC or indeed the Writer, cannot accept responsibility for any misinformation posted.



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