

# Scaffolding Insider

NEWS | FEATURES | COMMERCIAL | HEALTH &amp; SAFETY

OCTOBER 2025

## 87 FLOORS UP

Scaffolding at the top of The Shard

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LIFT OFF**

**TG30 now better  
than ever**

**NEW TRAINING  
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**CISRS evolution delivers  
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# FROM THE EDITOR

On our cover this issue is one of the remarkable pictures from Proplant Scaffolding's Award-winning work on The Shard in London. Proplant's client required the construction of a bespoke two-tonne lifting gantry from Level 87 up to Level 91 of the building, a cantilevered access scaffold from Level 81 to Level 87, and a lifting beam at Level 91 to transfer equipment from Level 72 to Level 91.

A truly remarkable project two years in the planning and meticulously detailed in order to deliver the work safely 310 metres above London's busy streets. On pages 12-14, read all the details about the challenges the company faced and the incredible solutions they came up with, including a number of bespoke innovations.

This is the kind of excellence that NASC members deliver, and elsewhere in this issue, we look at ways that the organisation enables this to happen. On page 8, learn more about the new and updated courses being released by CISRS, as it begins to deliver on promises for positive change. Next month, we will speak to Professor David Wooff, the newly-appointed, and first, Chair of the new CISRS Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) about his role in the continued evolution of CISRS.

NASC's Guidance documents have long been a central part to members' maintenance of the highest standards. On pages 9-10, we explore the latest updates to the game-changing TG30 guidance for system scaffolding. TG30's latest iteration launches next month, bringing further enhancements, including new systems and new manufacturers. All scaffolding contractors using system scaffolding can immediately drastically cut the time it takes to configure their system scaffolding, while ensuring optimum safety, stability and efficiency by using TG30.

On page 15, you can read about other ways NASC is leading the way, including in working with the Department for Work and Pensions on an initiative to deliver 5,000 scaffolding work experience placements across the UK in 2026. The pledges have started to come in...

There's lots of NASC News this month – see pages 16-17 – as well as our industry news round-up – and see if you agree with our guest columnist on page 6, who is writing about health and safety culture.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.



**Nick Campion**  
Editor

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## CONTACT DETAILS

[editor@nasc.org.uk](mailto:editor@nasc.org.uk)  
 020 7822 7400  
 07958 695778

**National Access & Scaffolding Confederation**  
 4th Floor, 12 Bridewell Place, London. EC4V 6AP  
[www.nasc.org.uk](http://www.nasc.org.uk)



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# LAST-MINUTE PLANNING BILL BOOST

The Government will table a series of last-minute amendments to its flagship Planning and Infrastructure Bill in a bid to 'tackle blockers' and kickstart construction.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) said the proposals 'could stop councils rejecting planning permissions, tackle blockers in the courts, alongside plans to accelerate reservoirs, windfarms and large housing schemes'.

Under the latest proposals, ministers will be able to issue 'holding directions' to stop councils refusing planning permission while they consider using their call-in powers. Currently they can only issue these holds when a council is set to approve an application.



Steve Reed

The updated Bill also proposes measures designed to stop planning permissions from being timed out for approved major housing schemes facing lengthy judicial reviews. This is in addition to plans to cut the number of times infrastructure projects can be challenged in court from three to one and a proposal to slash a year off the statutory pre-consultation period.

Natural England's role will be streamlined, which MHCLG says will "*speed up approvals for new homes and infrastructure by reducing unnecessary duplication*". It said this would allow "*greater discretion to focus on applications that pose higher risks or present stronger opportunities for nature recovery*", with standard guidance provided to local authorities for straightforward cases.

The Government, which has a manifesto pledge to build 1.5 million homes by the end of the parliament, is keen to kickstart construction activity as official figures show a slow down in applications for new schemes. The number of planning applications has slumped to its lowest level in 20 years, while the 221,000 homes granted permission last year is the lowest in a decade.

Steve Reed, Housing Secretary, said the country's potential has been "*shackled by Governments unwilling to overhaul the stubborn planning system that has erected barriers to building at every turn*".

## STRUCTURAL FAILURE SEES SCAFFOLD COME DOWN

On 24 October, reports came through of an incident in Manchester city centre involving a building in the process of demolition with a scaffolding system around it. While there were some initial reports of it being a scaffolding collapse, NASC quickly issued a press statement noting that there was no evidence of the collapse being caused by scaffolding.

Furthermore, NASC urged caution around making any assumptions until full investigations were complete, and reminding people that when properly built and maintained, scaffolding should not fail. Manchester demolition contractor PP O'Connor later released a statement, which read: "*On Friday 24th October at approximately 2.00 pm, we had a structural collapse at a site in Manchester, this follows encountering an unforeseen structural failure associated with a latent defect in the building one week ago.*

*"The unforeseen structural failure meant that it was appropriate to halt demolition work on Friday 17th October. This enabled us to consult with our independent structural engineers and put forward further contingency arrangements in preparation for a partial collapse. Demolition works then continued, maintaining a strict exclusion zone in anticipation of such an event.*

*"We are pleased to confirm that our contingency plans were observed and instigated at the time of the collapse and*



PICTURE CREDIT: Steve Kearny

*there have been no injuries to our workforce or members of the public. The resulting debris associated with the collapse was fully contained within the footprint of the site.*

*"We are in dialogue with the HSE and Building Control whilst we continue to make the site safe and progress with demolition."*

# CIJC POSITION PAPER CALLS FOR DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS AND PAY

The Construction Industry Joint Council, the body that sets pay and conditions for the construction industry, has published a Position Paper that outlines ongoing discussions between employers and trade unions, inviting further detailed feedback from employers' organisations. The aim is to explore long-term improvements to pensions, sick pay, holiday entitlement and pay, subsistence allowance, grading structures, and apprenticeship pay, while balancing affordability and modernisation. Trade unions argue that the CIJC Working Rule Agreement has fallen behind other industry agreements, particularly regarding benefits and pay differentials.

Employers acknowledge external pressures such as rising National Living Wage levels, which have eroded pay grade differentials, especially among general operatives and apprentices. Pension contributions currently match industry averages (3% employer, 5% employee), though unions seek a 15% total contribution. Sick pay and holiday entitlements are generally lower than comparable agreements, prompting discussions on extending coverage and adding an extra holiday. Subsistence allowances remain broadly aligned with others, though potential tax changes may affect their future.

The paper highlights trade union calls for modernisation, including revising grading structures and working rules for specific sectors, though employers prefer a cautious approach focused on cost management. Employers are



**Construction Industry Joint Council**

now asked to indicate preferences on key issues – such as enhancing pensions, sick pay, holidays, and pay structures – to guide future negotiations and potential two-year agreements.

The CIJC is made up of Unite the Union, the GMB, and the following employers' organisations: Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA), Home Builders Federation (HBF), National Access & Scaffolding Confederation (NASC), National Federation of Builders (NFB), National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC), Scottish Building Federation (SBF), Painting & Decorating Association (PDA) and Build UK.

## CONSULTATION ON 12,000 NEW HOMES



The Ladywood Estate today

After St Joseph Homes, Berkeley Group's West Midlands subsidiary, was named preferred bidder for a £2.2bn regeneration in Birmingham back in June 2023, a development agreement was finally signed in spring this year. The regeneration of the Ladywood Estate is set to be a 20-year project, with work not due to start on site until at least 2028 but it has been announced that there is now to be a consultation with the community to help inform a masterplan for the area, which will include 12,000 new homes.

## CBI CALLS FOR BUSINESS RATE REFORM

The CBI (Confederation of British Industry) has published a paper calling for swift reform of business rates, making recommendations for reform based on the principles of certainty, transparency, simplicity, competitiveness and fairness. In the report, Rain Newton-Smith, CEO of the CBI, comments: *"Business rates are one of the biggest challenges affecting competitiveness for firms of every size and sector operating in the UK. It is an issue our members raise with us again and again, and with good cause: at every turn they find a system that is over-complex and unfair, cumbersome yet unpredictable – where one small change can lead to thousands in unplanned costs. This matters – not just for businesses but for the economy and future of the UK. Right now, we have a system where huge cliff-edge increases discourage businesses from expanding, where rates calculations deter investment in renovating and improving buildings."*

*"Governments and think tanks have tried to tackle this before, but none have got to the root of the problem. Now, with a new Government determined to kickstart growth, get business investing and reform the rates system, we have a golden opportunity to get this right."*





## BRAND ACCESS SOLUTIONS' HQ TRIBUTE

Brand Access Solutions has announced that its Birmingham HQ on Valepits Lane, Garretts Green has been renamed Daniel House, in tribute to its founder, Daniel Palmer-Jones. In 1919, Daniel established Scaffolding Great Britain (SGB) & launched the revolutionary Universal Coupler – a product still used across the scaffolding industry today, more than 100 years later.

Brand Access Solutions says that renaming their HQ is more than symbolic, it's a commitment to the pioneering spirit that started over 100 years ago and still drives them forward today.

## CHARITY CHALLENGE A RUNAWAY SUCCESS

Midland Scaffolding Services (MSS) are celebrating their fundraising success after raising thousands of pounds for Caudwell Children, a charity that supports disabled and neurodivergent children and their families. Ben Ekins and Jordan Harrison took on an ultra-marathon, running from Birmingham to Northampton. They were inspired to take on the fitness feat by colleague Gary Rouse's baby daughter Poppy, who was born with Down's syndrome and a heart condition, which recently required major surgery.

The MSS team was inundated with generous donations, amazing raffle prizes and support by multiple companies, suppliers and customers. To support or donate visit [50 Miles For Poppy is fundraising for Caudwell Children](#)



## INDUSTRY VIEW

**Oliver Sanandres, Director of Health & Safety at the City of London Corporation, feels it's time for health and safety to stop being based on the optics and start being based on risk-led principles and a genuine desire for improvement.**



Oliver Sanandres

At ScaffEx25, I was invited to reflect on my journey through various health and safety roles, culminating in my current position at the City of London Corporation. Our work spans a diverse portfolio, from historic landmarks to modern developments, delivering public services to managing charities, with each presenting unique challenges.

The Corporation's approach to health and safety is evolving from a compliance driven mindset to one that prioritises proactive care. This shift is crucial. True resilience comes not from ticking boxes, or embedding 'safety' as a separate layer, but about creating the conditions for well-executed work (planned, resourced, and supported) so that safety emerges as a natural outcome. In my experience, both public and private sectors face similar hurdles: limited resources, competing priorities and at times, a superficial grasp of health and safety fundamentals. Too often, investment is directed toward visible artefacts rather than effective risk controls, and many organisations settle for

basic, lower tier solutions rather than striving for effective risk management.

Is one sector's approach to health and safety better? Not necessarily. While the private sector often has greater resources and may be more visible in its practices, both public and private organisations can fall into the trap of focusing on minor infractions, rather than a learning culture, more often than not driven by our claims management approach rather than genuine safety management. I think the private sector is less tolerant to 'failure' and as such better control, through better planning and oversight results, but not always!

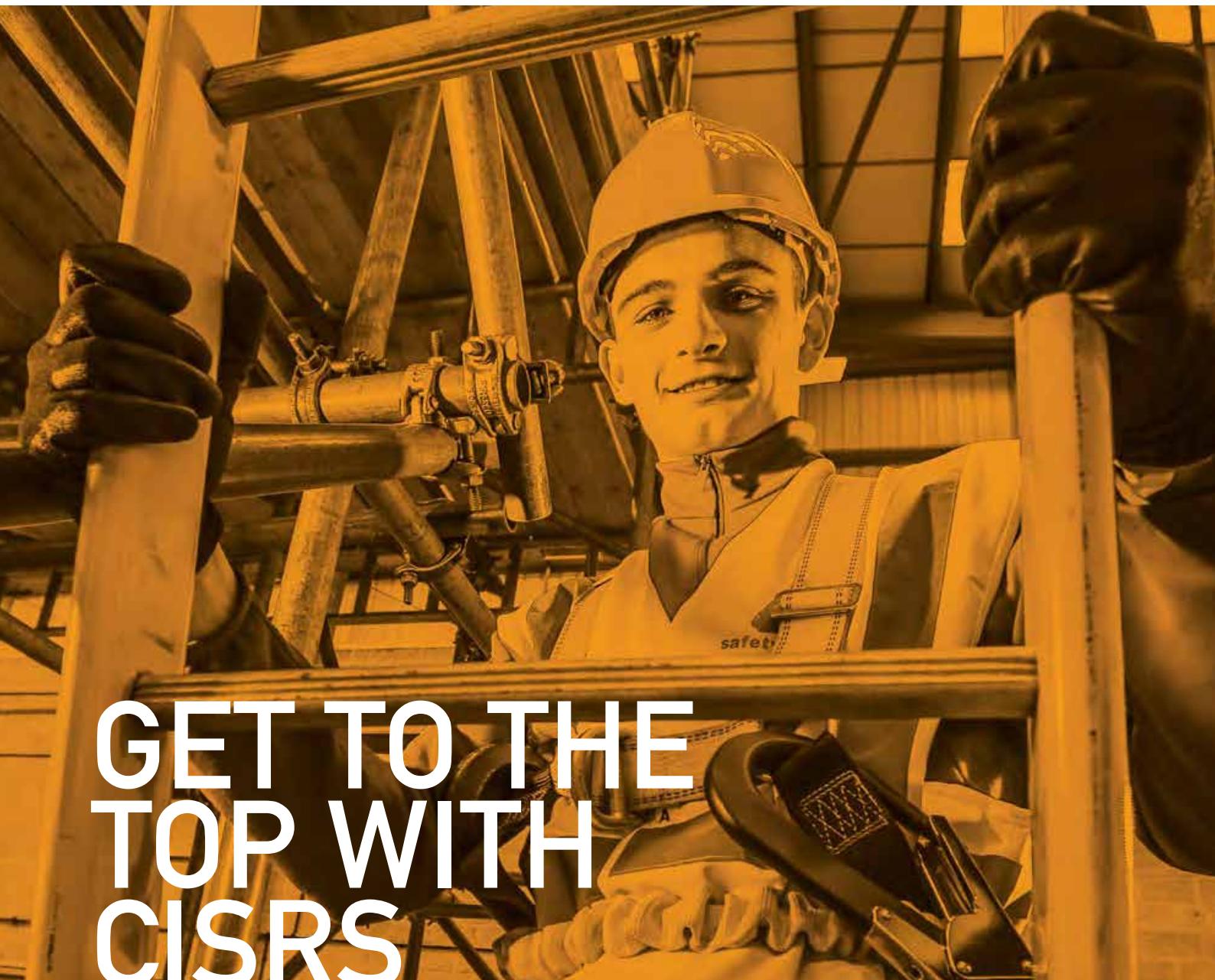
Recent regulatory changes have, in some respects, moved us away from the risk-led principles that should underpin health and safety law. The relentless drive for cost cutting has undermined genuine progress and forced regulators to become more prescriptive. Ultimately, organisations, including Government, have let themselves down by prioritising profit and expediency over robust risk management, with tragic consequences, with Grenfell serving as a stark reminder. New regulations like the Building Safety Act are, in many ways, necessary knee jerk reactions, but they risk eroding the foundational risk management principles of the Health & Safety at Work Act. Sadly, without a strong and proactive regulator, the proliferation of laws means little if there is no real desire or capacity to enforce them. This perpetuates a superficial safety culture, where profit margins are too often placed above people's safety.

For our industry, the path forward is clear: focus on real harm, invest in people-centric processes, and build resilience by making safety a core value, not just a compliance exercise.

# CISRS

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# CISRS EVOLUTION BRINGS RANGE OF NEW COURSES

CISRS is introducing a new suite of training courses and updates designed to strengthen safety, technical competence, and regulatory compliance across the scaffolding industry. All new courses from 2026 will go through the new Quality Assurance process, which includes input from the CISRS Quality Assurance Committee and the NASC Training and Education Committee.

These new and updated courses include:

## Mobile Aluminium Towers

The Mobile Aluminium Tower Training for Scaffolders course has been developed to provide a full understanding of relevant Health, Safety and Welfare legislation, along with the knowledge needed to safely erect, alter, move, use, inspect and dismantle prefabricated aluminium access towers. The programme draws on key legislation including the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Work at Height Regulations, PUWER, and RIDDOR, supported by standards such as BS EN 1004-1:2020 and BS EN 1004-2:2021.

Delegates will examine the principles of tower stability, pre-use checks, and the selection and inspection of components such as frames, stabilisers, platforms and guardrails. Safe assembly techniques are a central focus, with detailed coverage of both the 'Through-the-Trap' (3T) and Advanced Guardrail (AGR) methods – each designed to eliminate unprotected working at height and endorsed by the HSE as industry best practice.

The course also explores hazard awareness, including environmental factors such as wind, unstable ground, and overhead power lines. Learners will be reminded that safety harness lanyards must never be attached to mobile towers, in line with Work at Height guidance. The programme is currently being piloted, with full rollout planned for November 2025, once reviewed and approved.

## Advanced Scaffolding Inspection

An updated Advanced Scaffolding Inspection course will be launched in November. The revision incorporates the requirements of TG20, the newly-released TG30 and BS EN standards, as well as enhanced focus on digital inspection methods, photographic reporting, and the inspection of complex or system-based scaffolds. The course also includes expanded practical exercises that simulate inspection challenges faced in live environments, helping candidates strengthen judgement and decision-making skills under realistic conditions.

## Fall Arrest Equipment Inspection

The Fall Arrest Equipment Inspection course provides scaffolders and supervisors with essential knowledge to correctly use, inspect, and maintain safety harnesses, lanyards, and other fall arrest equipment, ensuring compliance with SG4, SG16 Management of Fall Protection Equipment and relevant British and European Standards. Delegates will develop competence in visual and tactile inspection techniques, fault identification and record keeping.

Participants will gain an understanding of personal fall protection systems, including harness configuration,

connectors, energy absorbers, inertia reels, and suitable anchor points. The course also reinforces legal duties under the Work at Height Regulations, focusing on inspection intervals, inspection registers, and the importance of equipment traceability.

A key component is rescue planning – ensuring every scaffolding operation that involves fall arrest systems has an effective, practised rescue procedure. Delegates will also examine SG19 guidance and industry examples of rescue techniques, including self-rescue and assisted recovery methods. The course is currently being piloted and will be formally launched in November 2025, following QA and committee review.

## Installation and Testing of Scaffold Anchorage Systems

The Installation and Testing of Scaffold Anchorage Systems course provides detailed instruction on the safe selection, installation, and testing of anchors in accordance with BS 8539, and NASC Guidance TG4, TG20 and TG30. Delegates will learn how to determine tie duties – ranging from 2.7 kN light duty to 12.2 kN heavy duty – and apply this understanding to practical scaffold tie design.

The course covers key anchor types including drop-in expanding anchors, self-tapping screws, nylon plugs, and chemical resin systems; highlighting correct hole preparation, embedment depth, and use of calibration-certified pull-testing equipment. Learners will perform both preliminary and proof tests, interpret results and understand how testing frequency varies based on site conditions or anchor type.

Content also reinforces good installation practice – cleaning drilled holes, using correct torque levels and preventing over-tightening or re-use of anchors unless re-use is permitted by the manufacturer. Health and environmental considerations such as dust, vibration (with the risk of hand-arm vibration) and noise are also covered. The course is currently being piloted and will be officially launched in November 2025.

## System Scaffolding Product Training Scheme

The System Scaffolding Product Training Scheme course, scheduled for early 2026, is designed to equip scaffolders with cross-brand proficiency in a variety of system scaffold types including Cup, Wedge, Rosette, Pocket systems. Delegates will learn to identify components, understand loading limits, and follow safe assembly and dismantling procedures using manufacturer-specific guidance.

This programme will also be piloted before nationwide delivery and reviewed by the CISRSQAC and Training & Education Committee as part of the strengthened QA process.

Together, these new and updated CISRS programmes demonstrate a continued commitment to training excellence, safety leadership, and technical integrity across the scaffolding industry, ensuring that CISRS training remains current, evidence-based, and globally respected.

Find your local Training Centre at <https://cisrs.org.uk/training-centres/>



# TG30 READY FOR LIFT-OFF

TG30's latest iteration launches in November, complete with further enhancements, including new systems and new manufacturers. All scaffolding contractors using system scaffolding can immediately drastically cut the time it takes to configure their system scaffolding, while ensuring optimum safety, stability and efficiency. What TG20 did for tube & fitting, TG30 can now do for system scaffolding.

TG30, the guide to good practice for system scaffolding, was created by NASC in collaboration with system manufacturers and the NASC Technical Committee. The guidance consists of the Operational Guide, Design Guide, and eGuide.

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 (Schedule 3, Part 2, paragraph 7) state that: *“Strength and stability calculations for scaffolding shall be carried out unless [...] it is assembled in conformity with a generally recognised standard configuration.”*

TG30 provides standard configurations verified by calculation. System scaffolding erected in compliance with TG30 satisfies the legal requirements of scaffolding under the Work at Height Regulations 2005. This reduces the need for bespoke designs or interpretation of the system manufacturer's handbook, which would be required without TG30.

## What's new?

The full systems included in the current version of TG30 are:

- Afix – Afixfast X52
- AT-PAC – Ringlok
- Scafom-RUX – Ringscaff
- Step-up – Ringlock
- Altrad Generation – Genlok
- Trad – Tradlok
- Brandsafway – Cuplok®
- Ramsteel – Ramlok
- George Roberts – K-Stage

The staircase systems included in the current version of TG30 are:

- Afix – Afixfast X52
- AT-PAC – Ringlok
- Scafom-RUX – Ringscaff
- Step-up – Ringlock
- Altrad Generation – Genlok
- Altrad Generation - Genstair
- Trad – Tradlok
- Trad - Tradstair
- Brandsafway – Cuplok®
- Ramsteel – Ramllok
- George Roberts – Uniscraft St

In November, TG30 will welcome additional rosette and wedge manufacturer systems and will include a number of additional birdcage scaffold options.



## How does it work?

Access to TG30 requires a registration and subscription. The ePortal software is compatible with desktops, tablets and mobile devices. This allows users to access information anywhere and at any time. TG30 is available digitally within the NASC ePortal, at: <https://eportal.nasc.org.uk>

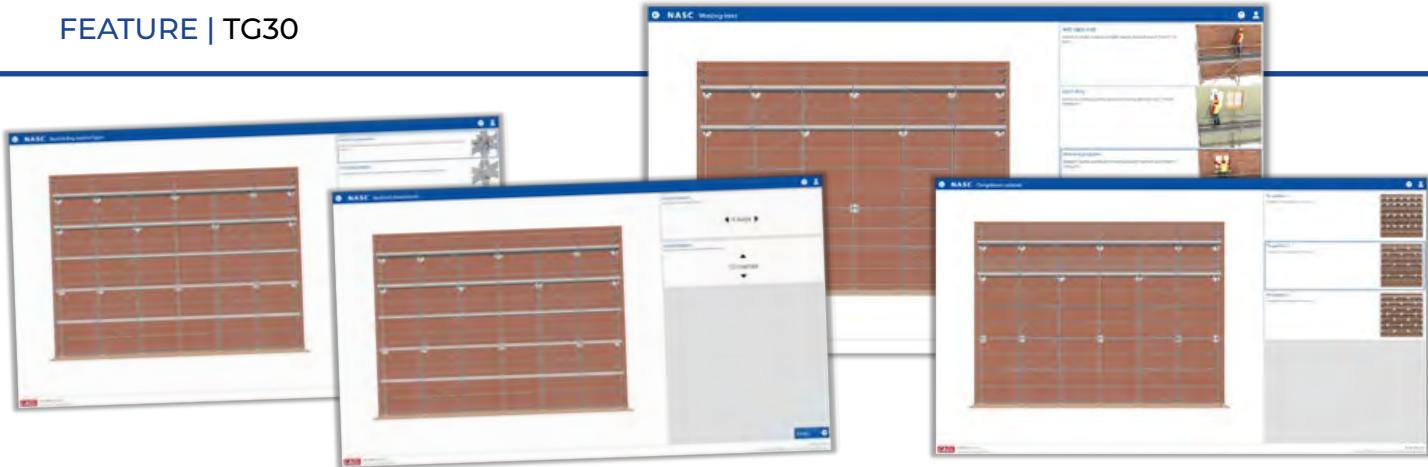
The TG30 eGuide is the design software used to produce compliance sheets for system scaffolds. Features of the eGuide include:

- User-friendly interface for selecting scaffold type and site location.
- Interactive map for wind factor calculation.
- Step-by-step scaffold configuration selection.
- 3D preview and compliance sheet generation.

The simple steps of creating a compliance sheet are:

**Step 1:** Upon accessing the eGuide you will be asked to select which scaffolding type you would like to produce a compliance sheet for.

**Step 2:** You will be prompted to enter the location where your scaffold will be erected. This is to allow the eGuide to calculate the design using the correct wind factor.



**Step 3:** Select the system type you will be using for your scaffold from a list of available options.

**Step 4:** Pick which specific system you are using within a system type. The list shows both brand specific options and the NASC TG30 compliant system.

**Step 5:** Enter the dimension of your scaffold, by number of bays and height in metres.

**Step 6:** Select the decking requirements. All options besides "Other" will take you to the next page. "Other" will ask you to enter how many lifts you are planning on decking.

**Step 7:** Select the working load that will be imposed upon the scaffold from the available options.

**Step 8:** This step requires you to designate the size of the platforms used by defining the length and width of the bays and the console (inner platform) width.

**Step 9a:** Select any cladding or brick guards required to provide additional safety measures to the scaffold.

**Step 9b:** Selecting no cladding or brick guards will require you to confirm if the structure that the scaffold is tied to is permeable or impermeable.

**Step 10:** After selecting cladding options, the option to include a pavement lift is provided.

**Step 11a:** The penultimate step asks if you require any beamed bridges within the scaffold. The eGuide allows for the selection of either two or three bay bridges. Wider spans will require design advice.

**Step 11b:** If either type of bridging is selected, you will then be required to state the lift that the bridging is required at, and which bay the bridging will begin in. If bridging is not required, this step is skipped.

**Step 12:** The final step in the creation process provides a selection of tie patterns to choose from. TG30 will default to selecting the most efficient tie pattern available.

Before exporting your compliance sheet as a PDF, you can customise information such as contract details, sign-off information, checker's signature and company logo.

Compliance sheets are used to demonstrate standard configuration compliance with TG30. They are intended to support site management processes and inspection requirements.

The front page of the final compliance sheet contains:

- A representative illustration of the scaffold
- Sign off information
- Compliance badges listing:
  - Wind factor
  - Maximum height
  - Maximum decked lifts
  - Maximum lift height
  - Maximum bay length
  - Maximum bay width
  - Maximum lift loading
  - Tie load
  - Maximum leg load

The back page of a compliance sheet contains:

- A repeat of the sign off information and compliance badges
- Detailed construction information
- Detailed loading information
- Detailed tie requirements
- Details on any additional features selected throughout the compliance sheet creation process.

It is important to remember that compliance sheets are location-specific. When creating a scaffold design through the TG30 eGuide, the location is used to calculate the wind factor that the scaffold could experience. This is a key step in scaffold design, as this will affect the tie duty, tie pattern and the number of required ties.

The dimensions of the scaffold, the permeability of the façade it is secured to and whether it is clad or unclad all influence the effect that the wind can have on a scaffold.



Mark Collinson

Mark Collinson, NASC Head of Technical, comments: *"In TG30, we have established a basic performance standard that scaffolds must meet – and all manufacturers included comply with this and exceed it. Where manufacturers are included, it helps scaffolders to optimise the layout for more advantageous builds, and maximises efficiencies in the outputs. And even if the manufacturer is not in there yet, the software is still applicable."*

*"Some people say they just work from the user manual – but we've encountered user manuals which can range anything from six to 300 pages. While some are very good, there are some which are inadequate and others which just have too much information for scaffolders to interpret. TG30 gives the alternative of a 2 page compliance sheet containing exactly what the scaffold should look like. It's such a quick and accurate process. It gives clear, concise, site-specific information, engineering data, wind data where the scaffold is standing, tie loads, tie frequency – all the things that are critical to maintaining a safe and effective scaffold in all weathers."*

*"Scaffolders will traditionally follow a pattern they are used to from tube and fitting, but system is different and requires a different approach."*

For more information, go to NASC's eportal  
<https://eportal.nasc.org.uk>





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# SCAFFOLDING PERFECTION 87 FLOORS UP



## Project Summary

**Scaffolding contractor:**  
**Proplant Scaffolding Ltd**

**Project:**

The Shard, Level 87, two-tonne Hydraulic Cylinders Replacement on Building Maintenance Unit

**Client:**

Alimak Group UK Ltd

**Project Duration:**

October 2024 – December 2024

## Project Background

Proplant Scaffolding's initial involvement with Alimak Group began in October 2022, with early discussions focused on replacing the two-tonne hydraulic cylinders of the Building Maintenance Unit (BMU) at Level 87 of The Shard, the tallest building in Western Europe. The client required the construction of a bespoke two-tonne lifting gantry from Level 87 up to Level 91, where the BMU is located, a cantilevered access scaffold from Level 81 to Level 87 to allow access to the BMU's hanging arm, and a lifting beam at Level 91 to transfer the cylinders from Level 72 to Level 91.

## Design and Planning

Following the initial site visit, Proplant established the client's requirements and arranged a subsequent visit with Node Group Ltd - the preferred scaffold engineers - to produce a preliminary design for client review. A complete 3D design was provided, allowing the client to fully interpret the proposal. Numerous meetings were then held with Alimak and key stakeholders from The Shard to scrutinise every detail and ensure all aspects were achievable. The project received final approval in September 2024, with work commencing the following month.



## Technical Challenges

The project presented various challenges due to the work location and the scaffold loadings required. The main lifting gantry at Level 87 could not be based out directly on the building's steel frame because of restricted loading. Instead, the structure was supported by the existing BMU steels, which could accommodate the necessary loads. Proplant introduced 780mm alloy beams to span the BMU support frame, forming scaffold towers up to six metres high, and used spin beams at high level to connect the scaffold towers. This allowed the installation of further 780mm alloy beams and ensured overall structural integrity.

A temporary platform was installed on the top lift for the safe installation of the connecting beams and Type 27 Niko tracks with T24 double load trolleys. The Niko track was designed to cantilever over the building's side, providing access to the hanging arm section. Access towers were built to each side of the BMU's hanging arm for cylinder removal, with cantilevered beams extending from Level 81 over the building's side - constructed above London Bridge railway.

## Safety Innovations

Given the high-risk environment - working at roughly 310 metres above ground and over public areas - all materials were required to be tethered before final fixing. Fittings included double washers for carabiner attachment, ensuring each component was secured with a light line during lifting and positioning. Scaffold boards were drilled at each end for carabiner connections and were tied down with board clips. For Niko rails, which originally lacked tethering points, rings were welded on by a steel fabricator to facilitate safe handling.

The team proactively decided against using impact drills, opting for spanners only to mitigate the risk of nuts detaching during dismantling.



## Logistics

Logistics posed significant challenges. The lifts available were passenger-sized, limiting material lengths to 7ft and necessitating spliced scaffold joints, increasing risk and the need for tethering. Bespoke trolleys were designed and fabricated to move materials efficiently through the restricted lift routes. All deliveries were scheduled at night when the building was least occupied, with materials transported through viewing galleries and a complex sequence of lifts and staircases – from the loading bay to Level B3, then Level 33, Level 67, Level 78, and finally up the stairs to Level 87.

Stored materials were secured to guard against high winds, and weather conditions were closely monitored with a wind monitor and regular forecasts. The on-site team maintained hourly radio contact with The Shard's operations team for updates on weather and project status.

## Project Delivery

The programme allowed four weeks for material load-out and three weeks for scaffold installation, handover, dismantling and clearance. The team completed these phases efficiently and without issue, meeting and exceeding the original design, budget and schedule requirements. The project's key stakeholders expressed their satisfaction with Proplant's conduct and performance, leading to Proplant being specified as the preferred scaffolding contractor for future works at The Shard.

## Testimonial

We were responsible for the supply and replacement of four up-to-two tonne hydraulic cylinders on the Building Maintenance Unit at Level 87 of The Shard, the tallest building in Western Europe, and we subcontracted Proplant Scaffolding Ltd for all scaffolding requirements. Proplant's contribution was a cornerstone of the project's success.

Proplant's design input and engineering solutions were pivotal. They didn't just build to a specification; they actively contributed to a workable and safe methodology for the entire cylinder replacement operation.

Proplant's operational delivery was also exceptional. Their commitment to safety was evident throughout the project, which was completed without incident. They were remarkably reactive and diligent, often providing on-site support the same day when on-site alterations or additional platforms were required to maintain project progress. Proplant's team were also excellent communicators. They offered invaluable advice, collaborated seamlessly with initially our sales team and then our project management team, and were always proactive in their approach.

Gwyn Taylor  
Senior Project & Technical Sales Manager,  
Façade Access UK

# NASC MEMBERS LEAD WORK PLACEMENT PLEDGES

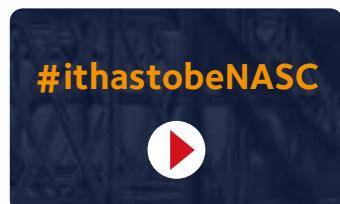
At ScaffEx, NASC, in collaboration with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), announced an initiative to deliver 5,000 scaffolding work experience placements across the UK in 2026. The pledges have started to come in...

Lee Marley Group has pledged 10 work experience place. The company commented: *"At Lee Marley Scaffolding, we recognise the importance of opening up access to our industry and inspiring the next generation of talent. Supporting the NASC WEX Pledge, we are providing site visits that give people valuable first-hand insight into what a career in scaffolding can offer. This initiative is an excellent way to broaden horizons, encourage new entrants, and strengthen the future of our sector."*

JMAC Group has also pledged an initial 10 placements: *"JMAC is proud to offer opportunities to people within the scaffolding and multi-discipline industry. As one of the fastest-growing access companies in the UK, we pride ourselves on working within communities, offering young people careers and ultimately providing the business sustainability of a workforce at the size and capability to maximise our opportunities in the market."*

Placements will be available through NASC member companies in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, supported by local DWP offices. Roles will range from hands-on site work to administrative, estimating, and office-based functions, thus demonstrating the diverse career

## MULTIMEDIA PUSH BEGINS



As NASC seeks to boost interest in the scaffolding sector as a viable, rewarding and exciting career option, the organisation is seeking to create resources that

reflect its realities, whether that's working on housing developments, commercial buildings, event staging, offshore or one of the many other fields in which the industry excels.

The organisation has therefore recently begun to make films of the sector at work, with a view to sharing the video across a range of media and social media platforms. It recently filmed with CCS Scaffolding on their HS2 project and with Lee Marley and their scaffolding apprentices. The aim is to engage with the next generation of scaffolders whilst being informative and realistic - as well as inspiring - about the roles they could go into.

The added bonus of these filming days is that they also highlight the amazing work that NASC members are doing; and still photos taken on the day also contribute to the digitisation of NASC's training content.

If any members are able to spare some time to undertake a half day filming session and play their part in helping the industry grow and develop, please email [scaffoldingcareers@nasc.org.uk](mailto:scaffoldingcareers@nasc.org.uk)



opportunities within the sector.

The initiative is designed to support jobseekers, veterans, rehabilitated offenders and career changers, helping participants gain essential skills and a clear route into long-term employment.

Meanwhile, NASC's Careers Executive, Rebekah Jardine, held a roundtable discussion at UK Construction Week in partnership with DWP, looking at Unlocking the Value of Work Experience for the Next Generation. The discussion saw representatives from the NHS, Tier One Contractors and Consultants come together to discuss how the DWP can structure its conversations with candidates with more information about the construction sector, and how they can better prepare their candidates for job opportunities.

## TALENT PACKS START TO FLY



There has been a huge increase in bookings for NASC's Talent Packs, which have been designed to help members promote themselves to potential new recruits and to raise awareness of what the industry has to offer employees. The Packs have gone off to members around the country, including to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Jersey. The Talent Packs have also been used by NASC at events, including Lincolnshire Construction & Engineering Week 2025, where NASC appeared alongside Premier Access Scaffolding Ltd at this event, which was focused on secondary school aged students. Premier helped students erect a simple scaffold structure and compete to build the biggest cantilever with the K'nex kits from the Talent Packs - as well as making use of the Pack's VR Headsets.



# NASC ADVOCATES FOR THE INDUSTRY

NASC is stepping up its efforts to influence the Government's understanding of the needs of the scaffolding sector, and to help shape policy that will facilitate its housing and infrastructure building ambitions. Taking the opportunity to speak to a number of key people all in one place, NASC attended the Labour Party Conference, meeting a number of MPs, councillors and other influential figures.

NASC spoke to MPs including Rebecca Long-Bailey, Anna Turley (Labour Party Chair), Ian Byrne, Jacqui Smith (Minister for Skills), Luke Myer, John McDonnell, and Tan Dhesi.

NASC's main aims in attending the Labour Party Conference were: to find more officers for the Scaffolding and Access All-Party Parliamentary Group it is aiming to set up; to highlight the 40,000+ vacancies within the scaffolding industry and what the Government can do to help; to lobby the Government re: Skills Bootcamp provision and concerns about the change in delivery routes; and to promote the 'It has to be NASC' campaign, especially in relation to local government procurement.

Further meetings with key figures are planned.



## NASC Manifesto

NASC has written a Manifesto to help explain to Government and other decision-makers who the organisation is, and what the scaffolding sector needs in order to deliver for the nation. This includes helping decision-makers to understand that NASC members provide access solutions for construction, maintenance, renovation, and adaptation across diverse industries, such as manufacturing, events, utilities, marine, and aviation.

Scaffolders are often the first on-site and the last to leave, ensuring others can perform their jobs safely and efficiently. The expertise of NASC members means they are relied upon to deliver safe, bespoke, and sometimes highly complex access solutions, including for challenging or sensitive environments such as historic buildings or high-rise developments.

The Manifesto explains that while the construction industry is a major user of scaffolding services, the sector's reach extends much further. NASC members supply temporary access and support for routine upkeep in schools, hospitals, warehouses, factories, churches, and listed buildings, as well as critical infrastructure and the entertainment sector.

Despite recent technical, technological, planning, efficiency and safety improvements, the public recognition of the scaffolding sector's significance and skill requirements lags behind reality. Scaffolders must have strong structural engineering knowledge, and the industry has developed gold-standard guidance and quality assurance. NASC has



Howard Dawber from the Greater London Authority with Clive Dickin, CEO, NASC

worked to improve competence standards, often in partnership with industry bodies and unions. However, the sector still faces skills shortages and bureaucratic obstacles, which hamper growth and operational efficiency. NASC calls on the Government to streamline processes, support training provision (especially for 16-18 year olds), and promote vocational education. The current focus on apprenticeships does not always meet industry needs, and NASC advocates for greater flexibility in learning routes and better regional provision of training.

Recruitment and retention are further complicated by regulatory issues and the need for skilled migrant workers in certain geographies or niches. NASC argues that the Migration Advisory Committee should treat scaffolding on a par with other skilled trades, aiming to correct misconceptions about the sector's skill level.

Safety has improved dramatically in the access and scaffolding industry, with RIDDOR accidents in 2022 falling to just 6% of 1981 levels. This success is attributed to NASC's rigorous accreditation, audits, and the Construction Industry Scaffolders Recognition Scheme (CISRS). The industry supports robust health and safety enforcement and welcomes the new Building Safety Regulator (BSR) to oversee safer practices and regulation. In response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, NASC has updated fire safety guidance and remains committed to continual improvement.

The sector also plays a key role in environmental sustainability. NASC members support the transition to renewable energy, retrofit buildings for energy efficiency, and embrace reusable and recyclable scaffolding materials and systems. Most scaffolders work locally, and NASC suggests Government support, such as fleet scrappage schemes, to help companies upgrade to more environmentally friendly vehicles.

# GOVERNANCE CHANGES AT NASC

NASC is making a series of changes to the governance and structure of the organisation to better meet the needs of the membership and the industry.

These include an increase in the number of regions, from the five super regions currently in place to 10 regions. There will still be monthly regional meetings, but each region now meets once a year. The current regional Chairs are retained, with new Chairs appointed for the five new regions.

The current Council is also to be retained, with a mandatory conference day attendance each year, to be held the day before the Annual General Meeting. The primary purpose is to review the business plan and operational plan. The Council continues to be made up of all Committee Chairs and Regional Chairs.

The NASC Board has been expanded to include two more directors: one elected from the Regional Chairs and the

other from the Committee Chairs. Both of these will sit on the board for a term of six years, although the first election for committees will be a three-year appointment.

From 2028, there will be a new independent Chair for the NASC Board, which will no longer therefore be chaired by the President. Indeed, while the existing Presidential team of President, Vice President and Past President will all remain on the board, they will be honorary board positions.

Speaking about these changes, Clive Dickin, Group CEO for NASC and CISRS, said, *“These changes have been driven by discussion with members over recent months and also by an independent review of our governance structures and processes that found there were some areas where different arrangements would deliver a better outcome in terms of meeting the best possible standard of modern governance.”*

## Audit Process Improved

NASC is always seeking to improve the audit process for members and the way it interacts with members throughout the audit period. Continued improvement of the audit process includes the following updates:

### Customer Feedback

NASC's Audit process is ISO 9001 certified and to maintain the high level of service offered, NASC has introduced a Customer Feedback Form that will be sent out with the final audit report. All constructive criticism and positive feedback is welcomed.

### Complaints Process

NASC has implemented a complaints process to ensure every complaint received is managed, investigated and dealt with correctly.

### Acknowledgement Letters

Once a member or applicant has uploaded the required documents, an Acknowledgement letter will be sent out by the Compliance Officer. This letter is the confirmation of the audit date as well as guidance on what the audit process will be on the day. The letter will include information on who or what is required at each point.

### Commitment Letter

At the same time as the Acknowledgement letter, the Compliance Officer will also send a Commitment Letter that must be signed by the Senior Manager, as written confirmation of commitment to NASC Membership Requirements. It is also proof that no information, sites or depots are being withheld from the compliance team. A full breakdown of the depots and sites must be returned to the compliance officer a week prior to the audit starting.

### Changes to Nature of Business

The current NASC Byelaws require all existing members to notify NASC of any change in the name or nature of their business in writing. To ensure a smooth audit process and communication, companies should convey the information as soon as possible by emailing NASC.

## STANDARDS RAISED FOR SUPPLIER MEMBERS

From 1 October, NASC has established enhanced membership criteria for all Supplier Members, particularly with regard to the qualifications and continuing professional development required for service activities. Supplier Membership compliance will now be assessed by desktop audit on application, a process that will be repeated every year following admission to membership.



Supplier Members will now also be required to advise NASC, on an ongoing basis, of any key changes to the business.

These changes mean that it is now possible for Supplier Membership applications to be accepted from companies without a UK-registered company. A third party, with people based in the relevant country, will be used to provide a due diligence report for applicants based overseas. NASC Approved Product approval will not be available to Supplier Members without a UK base at this time.

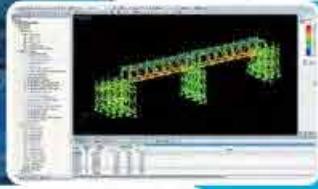
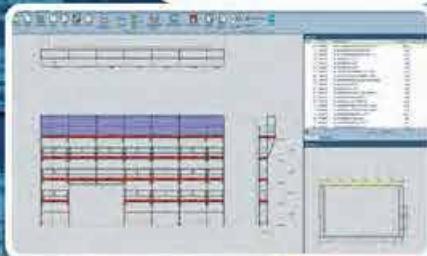
A further change is that from January 2026, the Design Membership category will be closed and Design members will become full Supplier Members of NASC. On top of the current benefits of being a Design Member, these firms will now also benefit from added benefits that come with being a full member, which include:

- A free copy of all NASC guidance including a free subscription to TG20 on the NASC ePortal.
- Free downloads of NASC guidance (except TG20 and TG30) and at least 50% discount on all hard copy guidance notes.
- Discounted rates for exhibiting at ScaffEx
- Certificate of NASC membership.

All existing Design Members will be communicated with directly about this change and how it may affect their membership.

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