

GENERAL

Boards, which are nominally 38mm thick, are the most commonly used boards and are supplied in lengths of up to 3.9m. All boards, regardless of their length, could be vulnerable to normal wind uplift forces and any decision in relation to the securing of the boards should be determined by risk assessment. Shorter boards, however, may require fixing to prevent movement. TG20 recommends boards which are nominally 38mm thick and less than 2.13m long, should not be used unless they are fixed down to prevent tipping. Boards which are less than 1.6m long may be supported on two transoms but should be fixed down at both ends. Such boards occur adjacent to ladder openings and provision should be made to prevent them from moving under impact and vibration.

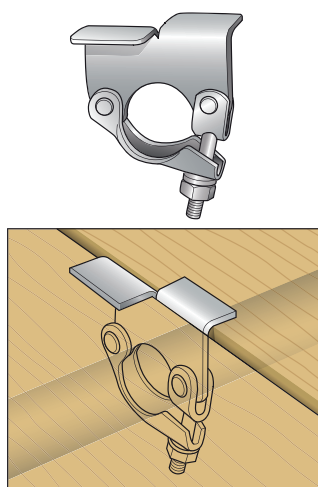
The overhang of the boards of any thickness should not exceed four times their thickness and should not be less than 50mm.

FIXING METHODS

Proprietary products

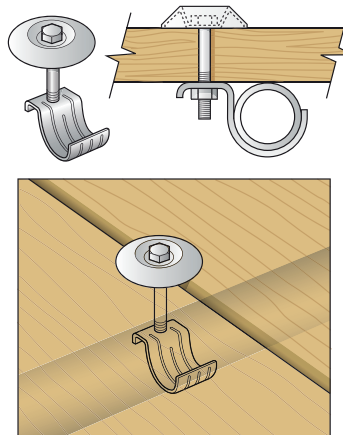
There are various products available which will satisfactorily hold down scaffold boards to prevent movement. Users should satisfy themselves that any proprietary system meets their requirements. Refer to Figures 1 to 7.

The following examples show some products that are available for securing scaffold boards and toeboards, but this list is not exhaustive.



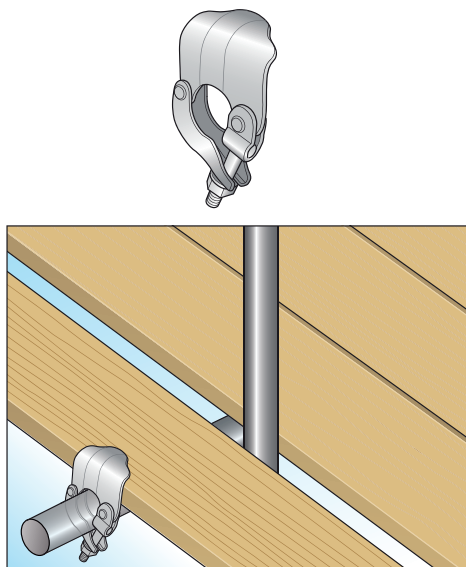
Scaffold board coupler

Figure 1



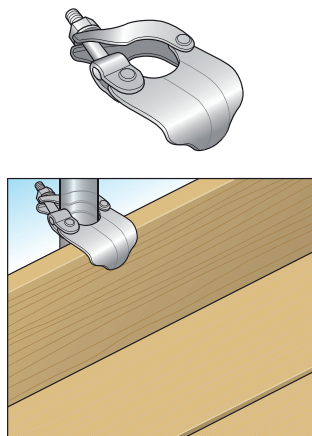
Limpet clamp

Figure 2



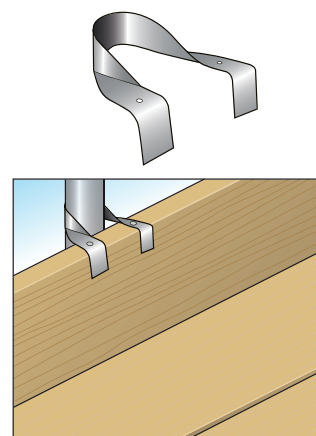
Putlog coupler securing inside board

Figure 3



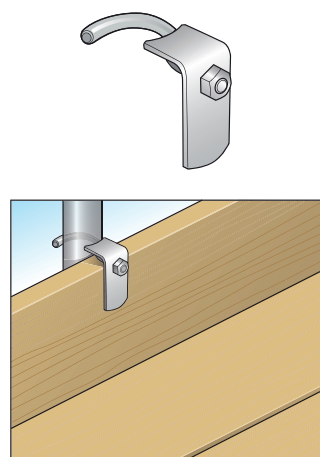
Putlog coupler securing a Toeboard

Figure 4



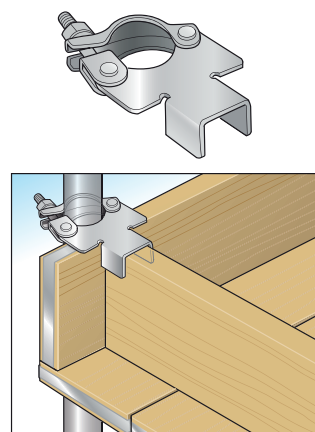
Toe board clip

Figure 5



Toe board clip

Figure 6



Toe board stop end

Figure 7

Small diameter ropes

A small diameter steel bond or polypropylene rope will provide an effective method for holding down a scaffold board. The method of installation is critical if the system is to perform in a satisfactory manner under all conditions. The rope should pass over and between each board in turn and then return over the adjacent board. See Figure 8.

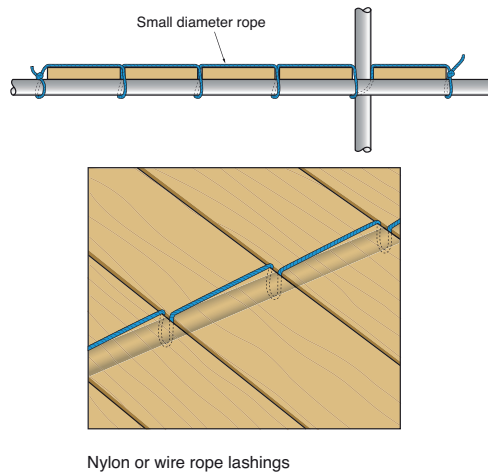


Figure 8

If the rope is only installed over the top of the deck, this could eventually slacken off and become a tripping hazard.

The one disadvantage of this type of installation is that it is very labour intensive.

Other methods

There are numerous proprietary products that help to secure boards. See Figure 9.

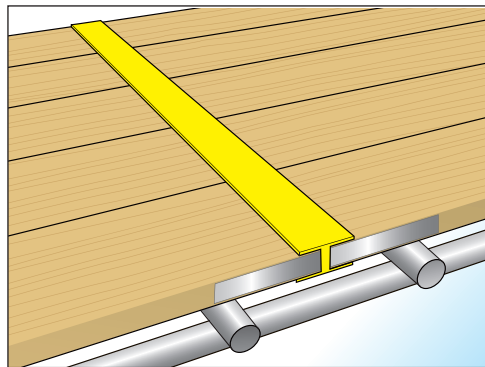
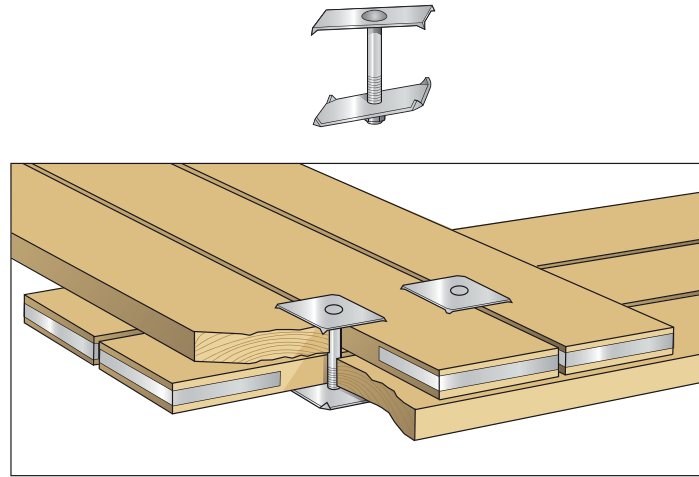


Figure 9

Overlapping boards

Where reasonably practicable, overlapping boards should be avoided other than at the returns of scaffolds. For details of how to secure overlapping boards refer to Figure 10.



Lap board clamp

Figure 10

Over-tube system

This application can be used as a temporary measure on a scaffolders working platform or as a temporary measure in an emergency where rope or proprietary products are not available.

A tube is placed over the boards and fixed to the inner and outer standards. If the tubes are used at each end of the boards, these will provide a firm restraint. The main disadvantage is that the over tube can form a tripping hazard. Consideration should be given to marking the tube with hazard warning tape.

Note:

When selecting proprietary equipment to tie down scaffold boards, consideration must be given to the introduction of gaps between the boards, which may result in falling items of debris/dust.

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.