

### INTRODUCTION

Following the publication of BS2482:2009 and the introduction of a British standard grade for a 1.2m support span board, there is now no reason not to consider purchasing British standard boards when buying new scaffold boards. The NASC will only accept the use of BS boards in their audit procedure in 2017.

BS2482:2009 has two grades for 38mmx225mm boards and one for 63mmx225mm. There are both visual and machine grades for 38mmx225mm 1.2m span and 63x225 2.5m span boards but only machine grade settings for 38mmx225mm 1.5m span boards.

There have been many requests for information about the re-grading and re-banding of boards following the introduction of the revised British standard. This document aims to give advice on key issues. This advice applies to:

**38x225 BS 2482:2009 1.5 m support span boards**

**38x225 BS 2482:2009 1.2m support span boards**

**63x225 BS 2482:2009 2.5m support span boards**

**38x225 BS 2482:1981 1.5 m support span boards**

All other boards should be re-graded in accordance with BS 2482:2009. If the board has not been graded to BS 2482:1981 or BS 2482:2009 assurance should be sought from the manufacturer of the board as to its grade and performance characteristics. It should be noted that if a 1.5m support span is required for a 38x225 scaffold board it must be machine strength graded.

### RE-BANDING AND RE-GRADING

- To ensure the maximum life of the scaffold board it must be checked regularly.
- When re-banding or nail plating takes place without using a qualified scaffold board grader, it is recommended that only one end band or pair of nail plates should be replaced (it is not recommended, under any circumstances, that a board should have both end bands or pairs of nail plates replaced). This ensures full traceability of the board as to its grade, manufacturer and support span. In these circumstances replacement bands or nail plates should carry no support information or information confirming that the board has been re-banded as the board can then be identified as having been repaired. Any board with both end bands missing should be discarded or quarantined until such time that the board can re-graded to BS2482:2009.
- When re-banding takes place and is carried out by a qualified scaffold board grader, both bands may be replaced. Re-grading shall be to BS 2482:2009 and the band should carry a date reference and the company's identification mark, license number or identification mark of the company's third party accreditation, support span and method of grading (M or V). The board should also be identified or branded as 'RE-GRADED'.

- When a board has been re-graded in accordance with BS2482:2009 and the original end bands have been left attached, the boards must be branded 'RE-GRADED' and in addition, should carry the full marking requirements of BS2482:2009. i.e.
  - (a) The number and year of the British standard, i.e. BS 2482:2009;
  - (b) The identification mark of the supplier;
  - (c) The letter M or V denoting machine or visual grading;
  - (d) The word 'support' followed by the target span in meters up to which the board may be supported (refer to Table B.1 in BS 2482:2009)
  - (e) Where appropriate, the identification mark of a third party certification body.
- A nail plate may be used in addition or as an alternative. These are fitted in pairs, top and bottom, in accordance with NASC Guidance Note: TG7:10 Scaffold Board Nailplates.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Good practice for the care and maintenance of scaffold boards should include:

- The end bands should be checked and replaced if necessary after use; any loosened or missing nails should be replaced.
- If a board shows signs of being accidentally dropped from a significant height or otherwise abused (i.e. run over by a vehicle) it should be discarded.
- All nails, screws, Hilti nails (etc) should be removed and the board checked for damage.
- Boards should be checked on both faces for splits. Whilst the standard, which refers to boards at point of sale, limits splits to 225mm, recent tests have been carried out to show that splits of up to 750mm in length do not affect the boards' performance. Therefore, for 'in service' boards, the following conditions are considered acceptable:

Maximum length of any split (where the depth exceeds 12mm) = 750mm

Maximum cumulative length of splits (where the depth exceeds 12mm) in any one board = 1500mm or 40% of the total length of the board whichever is smaller.

Any boards with splits which do not run parallel with the board axis (i.e. run towards the edge of the board) or splits with other significant defects situated nearby (e.g. large knots etc.) should be rejected and cut down to remove the defects.

Splits running across the face of the board are not permitted and the board should be cut down.

- Any board that has been notched should be cut down to remove the notch
- If there is any sign of rot or decay the board should be discarded
- All boards should be stored dry and have any concrete removed.
- Boards stored for any period of time should be regularly checked for signs of decay, especially fungus and wet rot. Boards should be stored with a regular flow of air around them. Boards should not be left 'close piled' for more than 3 months. If the anticipated storage is for longer the boards should be stored with 'timber spacers' in-between every layer.
- When cross cutting boards, reference should be made to the minimum length of a scaffold board and to TG12 for the Tying down of scaffold boards.

**NOTE:** Crosscutting does not affect the structural integrity of the board and the board will still comply with BS 2482. This presumes that either the visually or mechanically graded boards supplied have been assessed by a reputable company who have verified compliance with BS2482.

*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.*



**NASC**

**NASC, 4TH FLOOR, 12 BRIDEWELL PLACE, LONDON EC4V 6AP**  
**TEL: 020 7822 7400 FAX: 020 7822 7401**  
**enquiries@nasc.org.uk www.nasc.org.uk**