

AUTUMN EDITION | 2019

NASC

NATIONAL ACCESS AND
SCAFFOLDING CONFEDERATION

SCAFFOLDING MATTERS



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Scaffolding Matters magazine.

This latest NASC title is intended to provide members with a greater understanding of the work the confederation and its committees are undertaking on their behalf.

One of the five core member-focused objectives of the NASC is "to provide essential services to assist members in the successful running of their businesses".

Through this biannual magazine – published in January and September of every year – we hope to provide evidence in black and white on how we're achieving this goal.

Each edition will contain news from the five NASC regions and updates from each of the eight standing

committees. All content has been designed to be easily digestible and focused on educating, informing and empowering members.

We hope the information displayed on the following pages will be useful to you and encourage you to share this title with your colleagues.

Any feedback on this magazine gratefully received.

Des Moore
NASC President

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

SCOTLAND & N. IRELAND

Kevin Fitzpatrick
Brand Energy Infrastructure
Services UK Ltd T/A SGB

The performance of the construction industry in Scotland has deteriorated during quarter one of this year and future outlook shows a mixed picture.



The housing business remains strong, especially in the social sector, helped by public investment. The Scottish Government has committed to build 50,000 affordable homes by March 2021 and during the school holidays checks are being carried to determine how much ACM cladding requires replacement in the local authority school estate.

The private sector has seen a downturn with the economic uncertainty, although contrarily, house prices in the Aberdeen area are rising again leading to increased activity. The repair and maintenance sector remains strong and is a good provider of work for mechanical work platforms.

The continuing expansion of university facilities and student accommodation offsets a contraction in workload from the commercial, industrial and infrastructure sectors.

The main reasons again for the slow down seems to be economic uncertainty hampering investment.

MIDLANDS

Phil Heffernan
Scaffold Erection Services Ltd

The West Midlands has the highest forecasted growth rate in construction output across the 2019 to 2023 forecast, with annual average growth of 2.3% compared to the UK average of 1.3 per cent. This growth is not particularly matched in the East Midlands as the West is supported by ramping up of works on the HS2 scheme, preparations for the Commonwealth Games and a range of works to the M6 motorway. It has to be said though that early 2019 has seen some difficulty in trading conditions in scaffolding and access and it is hard to assess the Brexit impact. We hope that this uncertainty will eventually ease if the final date of 31st October is achieved.

It is expected that Birmingham's Clean Air Zone will come into operation on 1 January 2020. It will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The charges will be applied daily. Cars will be £8 and HGV £50. A non-compliant vehicle driving in the CAZ will pay once for the day, and then may drive in the CAZ area without limit on that day.

Clean Air Zone charges are based on the vehicle and not the person driving or any passengers or goods being carried. Charges depend on the type of vehicle and what sort of engine it has.

To avoid paying to drive in the Clean Air Zone your vehicle will need to meet certain criteria, depending on the fuel type. Updates are available at www.birmingham.gov.uk

NORTHERN & N. WALES

Wayne Connolly
Connolly Scaffolding Ltd

Brexit and government instability is having an effect on our industry without a doubt, not being able to concentrate on the future with a clear objective is a real issue. The construction industry and new projects are despite this buoyant, with the housing market leading the way, with pockets of exceptions in Manchester as an example, where the city is littered with tower cranes

In a market that seems to be holding its own (for now), materials in short supply and a low unemployment rate you would think end user prices would rise, however this doesn't seem to be happening in our area. Maybe it's the instability, maybe the Brexit excuse, maybe just maybe it's our own fault for putting ourselves in this situation, and by not capitalising on it. As a simple "supply and demand" model would demonstrate, demand on materials + demand on labour = increased price.

The Government's northern agenda is 'fizzling out' exactly five years after George Osborne announced it in Manchester, Andy Burnham, Mayor for Greater Manchester, has warned. June 23 marked the anniversary of the then-Chancellor's 'northern powerhouse' speech at Manchester Science and Industry Museum, but the mayor said many of its promises have been broken. He said the region must now be 'at the very front of the queue' of government priorities for the next 25 years. Will the next government act on the promises given to the North and provide more funding?

SOUTH WEST & S. WALES

David Anderson
Allen & Foxworthy Ltd

I'd like to focus on three major projects in the South West & South Wales region – one in the planning stage, another which has just begun and the last one which has hit its biggest milestone to date – and all of which require considerable scaffolding and access provision.

The first project is Dragon Energy Island, a renewable energy development earmarked for Swansea Bay. The tidal lagoon island would have giant underwater turbines as well as floating modular homes, an underwater data centre, a solar farm and the production of pure hydrogen and pure oxygen on site for storage or sale.

Construction could start in 2021, with the Dragon Energy Island potentially operational by the end of 2026.

In terms of a project now underway, Network Rail has started work on a new bigger sea wall at Dawlish, Devon, which will provide greater protection to the railway and the town from rising sea levels and extreme weather for generations to come.

The news comes less than a month after Network Rail awarded the contract for the first phase of construction to BAM Nuttall. The upgrade, which started on 1 June, will take nine months to complete and follows years

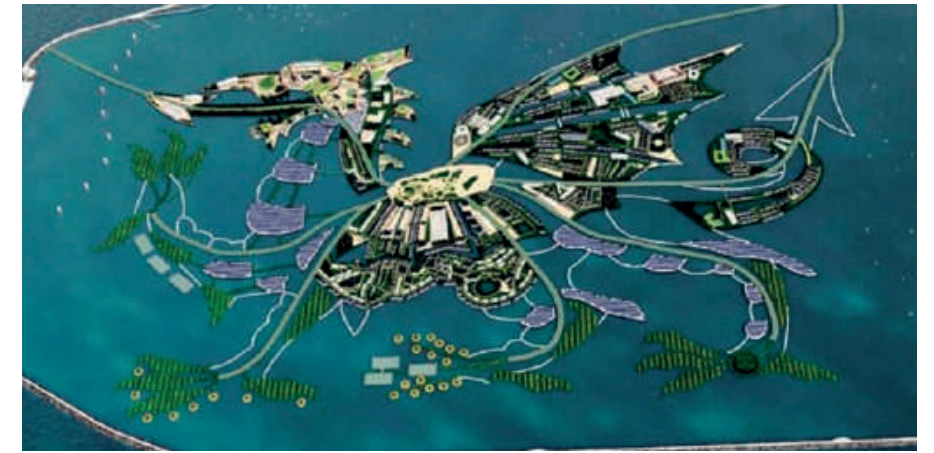
LONDON & SOUTH EAST

Lee Rowswell
GKR Scaffolding Ltd

London and the South East are feeling the effects of an industry slowdown. The region is expecting only nominal growth at roughly one per cent, driven by infrastructure projects such as those relating to HS2 station upgrades and airport expansions.

Commercial builds have been hit the hardest due to investor and developer uncertainty while residential still shows potential growth of around two per cent.

The principal contractors are telling us that they are shoring up their businesses - improving cost control measures and selectively bidding to



of detailed studies, designs and joint working between world leading marine, coastal and railway engineering experts.

Lastly on the project news front, Hinkley Point C's base for the first reactor, known as J-zero, has been completed. This means that the construction of the nuclear buildings above ground can now begin in earnest.

The final 9,000m³ of concrete was the largest concrete pour in the UK, beating a record set by the Shard in London. Reinforced with 5,000 tonnes of Welsh steel, the base has been under construction by the UK-French joint venture of Bouygues-Laing O'Rourke for six months.

In terms of training, there are two updates. Work has commenced on South Wales' only comprehensive scaffolding training facility. The new centre will be located at a purpose developed facility on Fabian Way in Swansea Bay.

not take on projects carrying too much risk. This is a strategy we all need to adopt to avoid chasing lower margin, high risk works and driving the sector downwards.

Our businesses, however, face many other challenges despite the economy. London is now subject to Low Emission Charges of £100 per day for lorries entering the capital if not Euro 6 compliant. Communication about this has been poor with many businesses having to shoulder the cost of retro fit exhaust solutions or face the Low Emission Zone charges, driving up the costs of running our fleets.

Led by the Construction Wales Innovation Centre (CWIC) in partnership with Construction Industry Training Board Wales (CITB), The new facility means that students based in Wales wishing to gain extensive scaffolding training will no longer have to travel to England or beyond to acquire a full set of skills.

Secondly, Wales is set to receive £3.6m construction investment to attract, train and retain new talent.

CITB Wales' partnerships director Mark Bodger said: "This investment is great news for Welsh construction. Employers have told us that a lack of on-site experience is a barrier to recruitment; CITB's Onsite Experience Commission will address that concern and help ensure the next generation of construction workers in Wales will have the training needed to become site and work-ready."

Additionally, labour costs increase as the availability of skilled labour decreases in the region. The market downturn may help to rebalance this to a certain extent, but the fundamental issue is that we are not attracting and retaining enough good skilled operatives in our industry. Many of us are working with a number of industry bodies to proactively improve this.

Despite this, the region will always have significant volumes of construction projects on the horizon. We expect investment in our capital and surrounding counties to pick up when the economy stabilises post-Brexit.

TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Chair:** James Attridge (JFE Attridge Scaffolding Services Co Ltd)
- Ben Beaumont (48.3 Scaffold Design Ltd)
- Steve Prower (Actavo (UK) Ltd)
- Jason Black (Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services UK Ltd T/A SGB)
- Colin Murphy (Cape Industrial Services Ltd)
- Martin Nicholas (Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding Ltd)
- Aaron Moss (Complete Access Scaffolding Ltd)
- Tony Jenkins (EA Scaffolding & Systems Ltd)
- Wayne Lovelock (Formula Scaffolding Ltd)
- Charles Stratford (HAKI Ltd)
- Ricky Mair (Highland Temporary Works)
- Sarah Holmes (HSE)
- Nick Geddes (Layher Ltd)
- Matthew Brewin (Lindway Scaffolding Ltd)
- Ian Nicoll (NRA Consulting Engineers)
- Russell Marlow (Optima Scaffold Designs LLP)
- Ken Barber (Purbeck Design Services Ltd)
- Ray Kellard (Scaffold Designs Ltd)
- Stuart Salmon (TR Scaffolding (Bristol) Ltd)
- Chris Wilshire (Wilshire Consultants BSI)
- Stephen Corden (Wood Group Industrial Services Ltd)

The Technical Committee, in line with the aims of the officers, has grown in number recently and currently has 22 members, increasing the experience and knowledge, providing great input into the committee's various activities and undertakings. I'd like to thank my fellow committee members for their expertise and enthusiasm.

In terms of recent projects, we have been very busy since the turn of the year, striving to complete revisions and consider new guidance review and additions.

A small working group has been formed to assist with the development and roll out of the TG20:20 eGuide. The software has become established within the whole industry and although knowledge exists through the good training of scaffolders, it clarifies and reminds all, of requirements, particularly in respect of ties and bracing. It does and will continue to, give clients the correct support for their management of scaffolding. We will also be adding new guidance on part boarded scaffolds.

The current renewal of a number of existing Technical Guidance notes has updates coming through on rubbish

chutes, supplementary couplers, edge protection, scaffold boards, non-standard products, design and the lacing and bracing of beams.

Finally, the committee continues to cultivate links outside of the NASC, with members serving on five British standards committees and working on some CEN European norms. We are also in close contact with European scaffolding organisations, work in the UK with the Temporary Works Forum and are involved with Build UK and the Access Industry Forum. We enjoy great support from the HSE who sit on our committee with enthusiasm, support and guidance.

I'd like to invite NASC members and scaffolders in general to get in touch if they have any suggestions regarding any new work that they feel this committee should undertake. We offer Technical support to the whole of the industry in endeavouring to make our environment the best it can be. Many organisations enquire of us to raise their standards in procurement and manage their scaffolding needs.

James Attridge,
JFE Attridge Scaffolding
Services Co Ltd



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LATEST

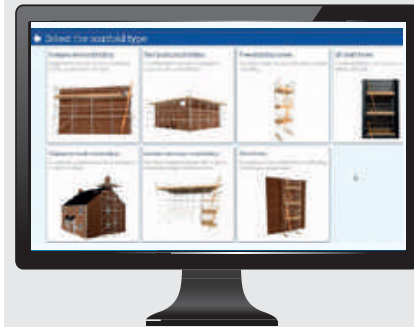
NEW EGUIDE IN PROGRESS

A new version of the TG20 scaffolding design software is currently being developed. A small working group is working alongside software experts CADS, who produced the eGuide for the NASC, to update and improve the programme.

With the consensus being that TG20:13 is still fit for purpose, work has focused on how to modify the software rather than make wholesale changes.

The planned updates include better and more uniform functionality, making it easier to use, while also slightly increasing the scope of the software.

It is hoped the new eGuide will be released in 2020.



Whatever the wider implications of Brexit, scaffolding standards look set to remain the same across Europe for the foreseeable future.

The NASC continues to enjoy close and positive relationships with the British Standards Institution (BSI), a member of CEN, the European Committee for Standardisation, and is a founding member of UEG, made up of scaffolding trade associations from across Europe.

Through these connections, the NASC has been able to play an active role in shaping scaffolding policies and protocols shared across the continent.

This will continue after Brexit as BSI is committed to Standards Across Europe, ensuring trading can be easily managed.

James Attridge, Technical Committee Chairman, said: "It is good to know that whatever Brexit brings our standards will not be changed probably for the next five years and we will still acknowledge CEN as the core for standardisation."

This is critical to the long-term wellbeing of trade throughout Europe."

GUIDANCE UPDATES DUE SOON

Minor changes are expected to be made to two technical guidance notes in the coming months.

TG6:17 Care and Maintenance of Scaffold Boards and TG16:14 Anchoring to the Ground are both currently under review.

James Attridge, Technical Committee Chairman, said: "The review of TG6 is close to completion. As the standard BS2482-2009 has not changed we do not expect significant amendments to this guidance. Similarly with TG16, little change is expected, however it is comforting to know that both titles remain relevant and up to date."



HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Alan Harris (Pro-Fix Access Ltd) | Neill Moffat (Actavo (UK) Ltd) | David Anderson (Allen & Foxworthy Ltd) | Peter Booth (Benchmark Scaffolding Ltd) | Pat Walsh (Cape Industrial Services Ltd) | Roy Rogers (Enigma Industrial Services Ltd) | Jo-Anne Michael (HSE) | John Lynch (Lyndon Scaffolding Ltd) | Adrian Rooney (Midland Scaffolding Services Ltd) | David Mosley (NASC/CISRS) | Rick Statham (Safety & Access Ltd) | Simon Hughes (Simian Risk Management Ltd) | Kate Thomson (Thomson Scaffolding Ltd) | Steve Kearney (TRAD Group)

HEALTH & SAFETY CHAIRMAN’S NOTE

Since I took up the Chair of the Health & Safety Committee in November 2018, members have actively moved to develop different ways in learning and reach out to the industry. Learning from the incident rates shown in the 2019 Safety Report, the committee is currently working on a suite of NASC toolbox talks that members can use to help reduce the incidents in slips and trips to name but a few.

The idea is that these toolbox talks will be reviewed every April using the new data in the annual Safety Report, that full contracting members provide in the annual incident returns every January.

The Scaffold Component Guardrail for temporary edge protection (Withdrawn SG27 temporary Edge Protection on Open Steelwork) is near to completion and was started in the previous chair’s tenureship. There will be over 12 designs for edge protection, downloadable from the NASC online shop at a nominal fee.

New safety guidance recently published is:

- The SG4 Poster – an A2 flyer that provides an introduction and overview of the NASC’s SG4:15 Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations guidance.
- SG38 Guidance on Metal Health Wellbeing, aimed at breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health within the access and scaffolding industry, supported by the Lighthouse Club, the construction industry charity, this new guidance helps employers to understand mental health, and to create an action plan for employees to thrive at work. It provides advice and contact details of other organisations which can also provide support.



There are 14 committee members from member organisations drawn from Contractors, Safety Professionals, Training and the HSE, of which half are contractors.

The NASC wishes to thank the committee members and the companies they represent for their valuable time in attending the four committee meetings a year, developing/reviewing the safety guidance and supporting the regional meetings.

With the sad passing of Mick Shephard earlier this year, the committee is looking for a member contractor representative, to take up the mantel and carry on his good

work. If you are interested joining the committee, from a contracting role then please email Stephen.allen-tidy@nasc.org.uk.

The safety guidance currently being reviewed is:

Safety Guidance	Title	Estimated Publishing Date
SG1	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH) in Scaffolding	Feb 2020
SG2	Asbestos Licenses and Ancillary Work Involving the Scaffolding Contractor	Nov 2019
SG4	Preventing Falls in Scaffolding Operations	Apr 2020
SG10	Requirements and Use of Brick Guards	Sep 2019
SG11	Noise, Dust and Vibration	Feb 2020
SG16	Management of Fall Protection Equipment	Apr 2020
SG18	Welfare Facilities for the Scaffolding Contractor	Nov 2019
SG20	Consultation with the Workforce	Sep 2019
SG25	Access and Egress from Scaffolds via Ladders & Stair Towers etc.	Sep 2019
SG26	Scaffolding and Hoists	Nov 2019
SG33	Guide to the Construction and use of Scaffold Loading Bays & Load bearing Platforms	Feb 2020
SG35	Guidance on the Handover of Scaffold Structures	Nov 2019

Alan Harris
Pro-Fix Access Ltd

HEATH & SAFETY COMMITTEE LATEST



TEMPORARY ROOF WORKSHOP PAVES WAY FOR NEW GUIDANCE

The committee is developing a good practice safety guide dedicated to the erection, maintenance and dismantling of temporary corrugated iron roofs, with assistance and input from scaffolding industry stakeholders and experts.

The move comes in response to calls from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the scaffolding industry generally, for a definitive system of work relating to scaffolding temporary roofs.

As the first part of the process, the NASC held a Temporary Roof Workshop at Simian’s Waltham Forest CISRS

training centre in Leytonstone, London, to establish the methods scaffolders should employ to erect a temporary roof as safely and efficiently as possible.

The new safety guidance is being developed by a working group consisting of members of the NASC’s H&S and Technical committees as well as representatives from HSE, ASITO and CISRS. The new application-focused guidance will complement NASC’s existing technical guidance, TG9:18 The Design and Construction of Temporary Roofs and Buildings.

SG11 DUE FOR MAJOR EXPANSION

SG11:15 Noise is set for a signification overhaul, with guidance on how to manage and mitigate the impact of dust and vibration set for inclusion.

This expanded title will link in with SG1:14 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH) in Scaffolding, which is also under review.

Alan Harris, Health and Safety Committee Chairman, said: “We think it makes sense to tackle noise, dust and vibration in the same guidance. All three areas can be harmful to operatives if unchecked and so we believe this new guidance will be really useful in protecting the long-term health of workers on site.”



LADDER GUARD GUIDANCE UPDATED

A small but significant revision has been made to SG25:14 Access and Egress from Scaffolds via Ladders & Stair Towers following advice from the HSE.

The guidance now includes an image showing a ladder guard that fully covers the rungs of a ladder left in situ, preventing anyone from scaling it.

The NASC recommends that ladders to the first lift are removed when not in use and kept in a secure storage area where possible, and that stair towers should be fenced off and secured.

Where ladders at ground level need to remain in place, these should be made un-useable, which can be achieved through installing ladder guards. Where these are used, contractors must ensure they fit the full width of the ladder and cover at least six rungs (making five rungs unusable). When fitted they must also be secured in place (e.g. by using a robust padlock).



CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Sarah Klieve (High Peak Scaffolding Ltd) | Catherine Brown (Actavo (UK) Ltd) | Anita Singh (Layher Ltd) |
Leanne Webb (Independent Access Solutions Ltd) | Phil Hinch (Lyndon Scaffolding Ltd) | David Mosley (NASC/CISRS) |
Robin James (NASC) | Simon Robinson (NASC) | Henry Annafi (NASC) | Chris Hilton (Vision Scaffolding Solutions Ltd)

CURRENT AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

The Current Affairs committee, originally described as a “fast response” standing committee, is the newest NASC committee and was established to deal with “hot topics” affecting the scaffolding community as well as the construction industry in general. Inaugurated in June 2018 it has an overall remit to react quickly to trends and developments in the construction sector, such as mentoring, the greater involvement of women in the industry, mental health & well-being, addressing the skills gap and attracting more young people into scaffolding.

The committee is purposefully small and responsive with a view to being able to react quickly to current issues or developments and turnaround support literature or information accordingly for the benefit of members. Due to the broad remit of the committee it works closely alongside the other standing committees in particular the Marketing Committee.

One of the first tasks of the committee was to develop support literature for

members to help them deal with the serious issue of mental health and wellbeing. This resulted in the new guidance note issued by the Health & Safety Committee (SG38 Guidance on Mental Health Wellbeing) as well as a toolbox talk which members can personalise with their own branding and use with their teams.

Other initiatives the committee has been involved in over the last 12 months include the introduction of an A4 double-sided information fact sheet highlighting the benefits of using an NASC member to new and existing customers – this can be personalised and used by members as part of the tender submission process; the development of a small concertina style information card encouraging non-member scaffolding contractors to join the confederation; the production of a number of exhibition stands that can be used by members at shows and events; the development of support packs including K'nex models to be used by members at careers fairs and school events; and the development of a range of general toolbox talks to help support smaller members in particular with

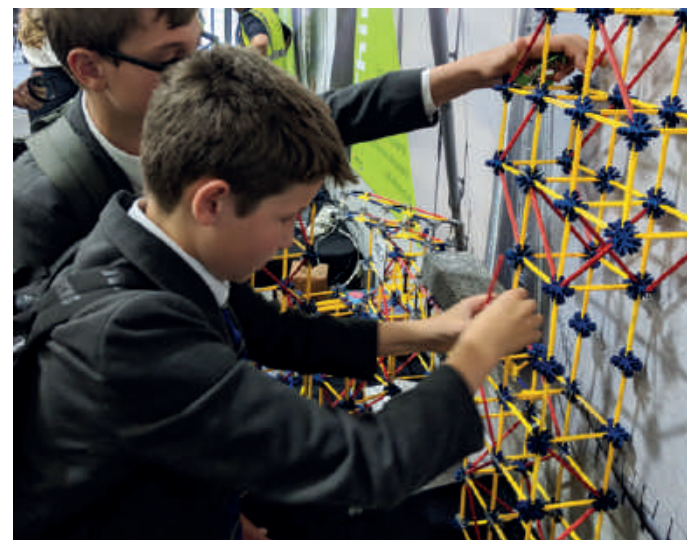
the day to day challenges of running a scaffolding business.

Over the next 12 months the committee will continue looking at initiatives to attract new recruits into the industry including interaction with further and higher education establishments; participation in careers fairs and recruitment events as well as the development of additional support literature – we want to focus on the diverse range of opportunities available in our industry and make scaffolding a real and desirable career choice regardless of gender or age. We will also continue to look at new ways membership of the confederation can benefit and support members.

The committee is there to support and assist members. We encourage all members, large or small, to contact us with any issues that they think the committee could help members with, please do so by emailing Simon Robinson, NASC Marketing Manager, via simon.robinson@nasc.org.uk, with copy to your regional chair.

Sarah Klieve

High Peak Scaffolding Ltd



The NASC is increasing its promotion of scaffolding industry careers opportunities

CURRENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LATEST



NASC PUBLISHES MENTAL HEALTH POLICY GUIDANCE

The NASC has moved to provide scaffolding companies with a go-to mental health and wellbeing resource through its latest publication, SG38:19 Guidance on Mental Health Wellbeing.

Aimed at breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health within the access and scaffolding industry, this new guidance helps employers to better understand mental health, and to create an action plan for employees to thrive at work. It provides advice and contact details of other organisations who can also provide support.

SG38 was developed by the Current Affairs Committee in conjunction with the Health & Safety Committee and forms part of the NASC's wider Head for Heights campaign, which aims to

promote the importance of focusing on employee wellbeing in the workplace.

Robin James, NASC Managing Director, said: “We are pleased to have published this guidance, which we believe will play a huge role in empowering employers across the UK, enabling them to better support the mental health needs of their employees.

“This guidance provides employers with proactive steps they can take to improve wellbeing in the workplace as well as a host of useful links and services that they can signpost their employees to.”

SG38 can be downloaded for free via the NASC online shop. Hard copies may also be purchased via the same webpage.

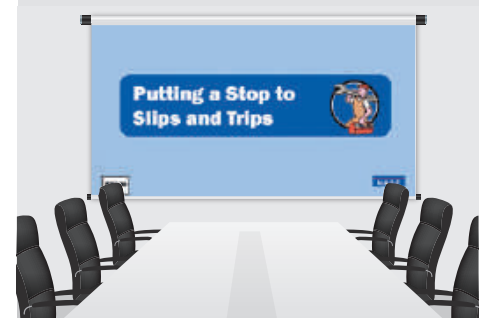
TOOLBOX TALKS NOW IN PRODUCTION

The NASC is now producing and distributing a series of Toolbox Talks for members to deliver to their workforce.

The short, informal talks will focus on a broad range of health and safety-related topics. The two that have been produced to date have covered mental health & wellbeing support and reducing slips and trips on site.

The Toolbox Talks are editable, enabling members to add their logo to each slide. They will be available to download for free via the members' area on the new NASC website.

It is hoped that through the dissemination of these regular Toolbox Talks, as well as the NASC's ongoing commitment to publishing, updating and promoting health and safety guidance, members' excellent safety standards will be maintained.



NEW NASC EXHIBITION COLLATERAL

As part of wider efforts to raise awareness of and interest in scaffolding industry careers opportunities, the NASC is making its new 3m x 3m pop up exhibition stand available to members.

The new simple-to-use kit comes with two sets of display panels – one promoting the NASC as a whole and the other focused on promoting career opportunities in the scaffolding industry.

The NASC is keen to provide members with further events-based assistance. This could take the form of literature, such as the NASC Safety Report, NASC Yearbook, NASC Info Packs, Scaffolding Magazine, or giveaways such as NASC pens and notepads.

For more information email NASC Marketing Manager Simon Robinson via simon.robinson@nasc.org.uk



HIRE, SALES & MANUFACTURING CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

HIRE, SALES & MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Chair:** Sean Pike (Layher Ltd)
Vice Chair: Sarah Wilson (Gilray Plant Ltd)
- Paul Norris (Actavo [UK] Ltd)
Kristian Bearheim (Alustar AS UK)
Richard L'Herroux (AT-PAC Ltd)
Tom Daly (Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services UK Ltd T/A SGB)
Lalit Premchandani (Brisko Scaffolding Ltd)
Sean Harris (Combisafe International Ltd)
Alan Scott (Enigma Industrial Services Ltd)
Matt Shore (Forgeco Ltd)
Matt Perry (Generation [UK] Ltd)
Mark Frost (George Roberts [NW] Ltd)
Steve Coshall (HAKI Ltd)
Phil Marks (PcP Gratings Ltd)
Wayne Curtis (Peri Ltd)
Tom Steele (PSB Sales Ltd)
Grant Norfolk (Rotamead Ltd)
Gordon Pilling (St Helens Plant Ltd)
John Ackers (TRAD Hire & Sales)
Tony Mills (Trademagic Ltd)
Knud Pedersen (Turner Access Ltd)
Richard Holmes (UK System Scaffold Hire)



The main thrust of the committee workload in 2019 has been the refinement of the NASC Code of Practice Product Audit.

During 2019 prefabricated structural transoms have been added to the list of products already covered by the NASC CoP audit. Compliant product listings have also been augmented to include 'third party' member suppliers of audited products.

Where an NASC CoP product audit exists, member suppliers are required to put products forward for audit. For further details regarding the NASC CoP product audit, please go to the NASC website.

The committee is also producing an NASC certificate of CoP product compliance for issue to members following audit. All certificates will be numbered and will include details of the member company and the compliant product.

The committee continues to liaise closely with the ASITO training group to ensure that courses reflect the requirements of the product audit in regard to CISRS system training.

Committee objectives were reviewed earlier in 2019 and it was agreed that 'sustainability' would be an appropriate addition. The NASC CoP product audit already requires that manufactured

product should be responsibly sourced, and it was agreed that this requirement should be reflected in data sheets and product guides issued with the product.

The committee also agreed to look at issuing guidance on ancillary products, such as adjustable base jacks, girder couplers, band and plate, supplementary fittings, debris netting and baseplates.

Marketing ranks high on the list for all suppliers of scaffolding product, and the committee has welcomed the involvement of Simon Robinson, NASC Marketing Manager, who has helped to develop an NASC 'Z' card for display at NASC member depots. This publication is aimed at scaffolding contractors who are considering joining the confederation.

Committee members have also contributed to a new scaffolding publication which is one of a series of professional guides produced by Construction Manager magazine. The next issue will be published in early 2020.

At the time of writing it is pleasing to report that several NASC supplier members are sponsoring the NASC annual awards categories. The winners will be announced in front of more than 700 members and guests at the NASC Annual Ball at Celtic Manor, Newport on Friday 22 November 2019.

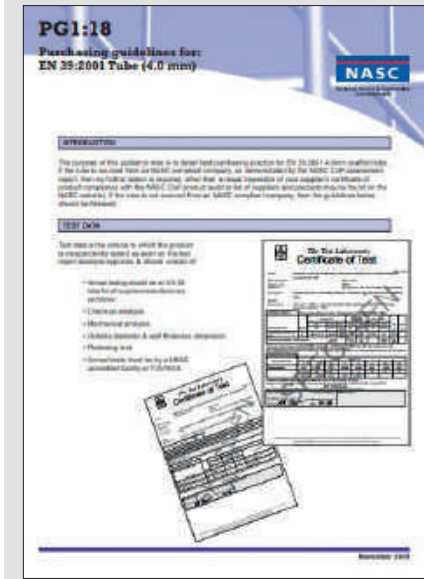
Sean Pike,
Layher Ltd

HIRE, SALES & MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE LATEST

PRODUCT PURCHASING GUIDANCE NOTES AVAILABLE

The NASC has published a suite of scaffolding product purchasing guidelines – simple, go-to documents for contractors to use so they can ensure the equipment they source is up to standard.

The six product guidance (PG) documents – numbered PG1:18 to PG6:18 – cover a range of product categories; EN 39:2001 tube [4mm], EN 10219-1:2006 high tensile tube [3.2mm], BS 2482:2009 timber boards, EN74-1 couplers, aluminium beams and BS EN 12810/11 system scaffolds.



Copies are available for purchase and free download from the NASC online shop.

Each PG note details purchasing best practice and outlines the standards to which customers should check that products they are sourcing are manufactured and tested to. This includes what to look for, what relevant information they should request and what a test certificate looks like.

The PG notes are intended to be used in tandem with the NASC's Code of Practice [CoP] compliant product list, which corresponds with the six PG product categories. All products on this list have been subjected to UKAS accredited independent laboratory testing over and above the testing and third-party approval standards of the manufacturer and supplier.

Robin James, NASC Managing Director, said: "It is in everyone's interests that the products we purchase and use daily fall under some form of independent external scrutiny and third-party minimum standards.

"Through the publication of the new PG notes, contractors can ensure the products they hire or buy are safe and compliant to BS EN standards. This can either be achieved by selecting equipment on the NASC's COP compliant product list, which includes products that have successfully passed rigorous independent testing or by carrying out your own checks on products not on the list using the guidance and tips included in the PG documents."



CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE TO BE ISSUED

Manufacturers and suppliers of scaffolding products included in the NASC Code of Practice compliant product list will soon receive a certificate of compliance.

The new certificates will show that the product listed has passed the stringent NASC CoP audit, which includes Quality Systems & Procedures, Product Testing, Raw Material & Components and Process Control. Where appropriate relevant BS, EN & ISO Standards are utilised.

Sean Pike, Hire, Sales and Manufacturing Committee Chairman, said: "Through these new NASC certificates of compliance, NASC supplier members will be able to show that their products have been independently audited and meet the required minimum standards.

"This gives great value not only to the supplier members but also their customers."

Certificates will be issued from next month (October).

SUPPLIER MEMBERS ON THE RISE

CCB Scaffolding Supplies Ltd has become the latest to have their application to become an NASC full non-contracting member approved.

The company, which operates from Grangemouth and Chester, manufactures and supplies a range of scaffolding and formwork related products.

Sean Pike, Chair of the NASC Hire, Sales and Manufacturing Committee and Managing Director of Layher UK, said: "We're pleased to welcome CCB Scaffolding Supplies Ltd into the NASC full non contracting membership fold.

"Holding this membership provides additional reassurance to CCB Scaffolding Supplies Ltd's customers

that their products are proven to perform to the highest standards."



CONTRACTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: David Brown (IBN Scaffold Access Ltd) | Trevor Clarke (Amber Scaffolding Ltd) | Matthew Cousins (Apex Scaffolding (Exeter) Ltd) | David Lang (Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services UK Ltd T/A SGB) | Lynn Way (Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding Ltd) | Dave Battison (Fred Champion Scaffolding Ltd) | Andy Thomas (H&H Contract Scaffolding Ltd) | Liz Bridge (Joint Taxation Committee) | Ian Fyall (Simian Risk Management Ltd) | Mark Chard (Star Scaffolding Ltd)

CONTRACTS CHAIRMAN’S NOTE



The Contracts Committee has continued with its work in updating and producing new guidance notes for the industry. The Committee has a healthy mix of large, medium and small contracting members and benefits from the expertise provided by these volunteers as well as Liz Bridge from the Joint Taxation Council (JTC), whose input and notification of important upcoming changes such as Reverse Charge VAT (see opposite page) has been invaluable over the years.

As Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Fyall of Simian Risk for his work on the committee and wish him a long and happy retirement. Ian has been a valuable member of the Contracts Committee for many years and his knowledge and advice will be sorely missed.

The purpose of this committee is to address commercial and contractual issues that scaffolding contractors experience on a day to day basis and provide guidance on how to negotiate such situations. If you have any issues

you would like to raise and feel that the membership would benefit from please contact us on enquiries@nasc.org.uk

The existing contractual guidance notes are now fully up-to-date and will fall into a review every five years in line with other NASC guidance. I would like to thank all the Committee members for their hard work in ensuring these documents are up to date.

The Committee also provides representation for the membership on the Contractors Legal Group and JCT Council. This external representation goes a long way to demonstrate the reach the NASC has and the ability we have to help influence a positive change in the industry with regards the abolition of retentions, better payment terms and the removal of contentious contractual terms for the forms of sub-contract we all use.

David Brown,
IBN Scaffold Access Ltd

CONTRACTS COMMITTEE LATEST

SCAFFOLDING CONTRACT
GAINING TRACTION

We would like encourage members to make use of the Scaffolding Contract.

The document was originally developed by the NASC (National Access & Scaffolding Confederation) in conjunction with the CLG (Contractors Legal Group), which is the umbrella group for main contractors, and was first published by CIP in 2014.

It is set out as a form of contract for the erection, hire and dismantling of scaffolding, and is considered appropriate for use by CLG members and also by members of the National Federation of Builders and the Scottish Building Federation.

The contract is gaining traction with contractors in the construction industry who are increasingly recognising it as a default document when agreeing terms and conditions with scaffolding contractors.

David Brown, NASC Contracts Committee Chair, said: “The Scaffolding Contract allows both parties to manage the Scaffolding Works in a proactive and collaborative manner. The Contract is set out to ensure that there is clarity for all as to what is and what is not included within the Scaffolding Works package.

“We believe the Scaffolding Contract represents both parties fairly and can be easily adopted within the construction industry.”



REVERSE CHARGE VAT DELAYED



The introduction of Reverse Charge VAT has been pushed back until October 1 2020.

The new payment scheme, which was due to be implemented from October this year, has been delayed by HMRC at the 11th hour, following criticism of awareness and understanding of the changes.

Reverse Charge VAT will affect payments between contractors and subcontractors. It is likely to have large repercussions for cashflows.

While the 12-month implementation delay is welcome, the onus is now on NASC members to make sure they are prepared for October 1 2020.

Liz Bridge of the Joint Taxation Council has produced a guidance document which is available to you for free. To receive a copy, email Liz@thetaxbridge.com.

Top Reverse Charge VAT tips include:

- Think about cash flow and prepare for no incoming VAT after October
- Will you need to become a monthly repayment trader?
- Prepare to revise the form of invoices and applications for payment so they do not request VAT. You will need VAT invoices and reverse charge invoices.
- Train the person who issues invoices in reverse charge rules.
- Upgrade your software to handle reverse charge.
- Learn how to check VAT and CIS registration of customers
- Where will you file end user statements?

VAT is changing. Please consult with your financial advisors / accountants to ensure you are prepared.

FIVE NEW GUIDANCE NOTES

The Committee will this year produce five new guidance notes that will aid the membership:

- CG20 A Guide to Monitoring and Chasing Debt
- CG21 Eligibility to Work
- CG22 Early Payment Schemes
- CG24 Staff Handbook Guide
- CG25 Common Contract Terminology



Members will be notified via email when these guidance notes have been published and a free copy issued. Further copies will be available for purchase and download via the NASC’s online shop.

MARKETING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Steve Fellows (Malvern Scaffolding Ltd) | Lynn Way (Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding Ltd) | Helen Gawor (GKR Scaffolding Ltd) | Sean Pike (Layher Ltd) | Lisa Butler (TRAD Group) | Fiona Gallagher (Turner Access Ltd) | Robin James (NASC) | Jamie McGuire (NASC) | Simon Robinson (NASC)

MARKETING CHAIRMAN’S NOTE



With a wealth of knowledge of the construction industry as well as their expertise in promotion and marketing, the Marketing Committee comprises a formidable team. The committee guides the promotion of the NASC, and for this reason, I would encourage all members to use the collective might of the NASC to support their own business. It is the aim of the committee to get this message out: having a NASC member on your site is a positive benefit.

Moreover, we want to appeal to future members that being a part of the NASC has a genuine benefit to their company and the wider scaffolding industry. The members are proud of the independent auditing process keeping the standards high. The membership is recognised as a badge of quality, and not just about paying a membership fee and having a logo!



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MARKETING COMMITTEE TO DATE:

- Both the NASC Yearbook and Safety Report have been revamped to reflect the modern, professional image represented by the NASC.
- New information packs assisting our members in their tender package.
- Distributed thousands of SG4 posters to main contractors.
- The AGM and Members Ball, which in previous years has included celebrity guests such as Gabby Logan and Karen Brady CBE, have been revamped to promote diversity within the industry.
- Scaffolding Awards recognising not only the great work produced by members, but contribution to Health, Safety & Wellbeing, Apprentices, Innovation and Diversity.
- Greater industry engagement through Regional seminars

A final note: From a personal perspective, 2019 marks the 10th Anniversary of my Company becoming a member of the NASC. From the large national companies down to the smaller companies, I have met some supportive people who are genuinely happy to help, so I would say get involved and experience the benefits.

Steve Fellows,
Malvern Scaffolding Ltd

Photo above: Broadcaster Gabby Logan hosted the sell-out NASC Awards in Edinburgh in November 2018.

MARKETING COMMITTEE LATEST



The NASC and Temporary Works Forum (TWf) are co-hosting a free Temporary Works seminar in Bristol in October.

The half-day event will cover a broad range of temporary works topics, with a particular focus on scaffolding, and is aimed at both scaffolding contractors – both NASC members and non-members – and clients.

It follows a similar NASC and TWf seminar held in Birmingham in June which drew more than 100 delegates.

Speakers at the Bristol event will include Ashley Daniels, HPC Head of Lifting & Temporary Works at NNB Hinkley Point C, Simon Hughes, Managing Director of Simian Risk, and Terry Roberts, Software Development Manager at CADS, developers of the NASC’s TG20:13 eGuide.

Robin James, NASC Managing Director, said: “The purpose of these seminars is to bring all interested parties together in one room to learn more about temporary works, particularly how we can all work more efficiently and collaboratively to ensure works are carried out as safely as possible and to the highest possible standards.

“We hope scaffolding contractors and anyone involved in the procurement and management of scaffolding contractors will join us in Bristol for this informal half-day event.”

NASC SET TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

The new NASC website is set to go live in the next few weeks.

The site will feature a simplified and clearer design, making it easier for visitors to find the information they’re looking for, and a more interactive members area, packed with downloadable NASC resources such as videos, animations, slideshows and toolbox talks.

The new website will also make it easier for visitors to search for an NASC member in their area, with the intention of significantly improving the traffic pushed through to member websites and general enquiries made.

Members will also be able to update their company information, such as contact details and branch locations, and create/delete staff profiles.

HAVE A LOOK AT NASC.ORG.UK



PEACE OF MIND WITH NASC

The NASC has launched a Safe Scaffolding Charter to recognise the ever-growing number of organisations that place NASC membership at the heart of their scaffolding contractor procurement policies.

The Charter is open to any organisation that has specified ‘NASC-only’ in their scaffolding-related tender documents and/or has an established commercial relationship with a full NASC member for at least a year.

Signatories already include Nuclear New Build Generation – the company behind the development and eventual operation of Hinkley Point C – consulting and infrastructure suppliers Amey, construction specialists DE Construct and principal contractors Knight Harwood.

Robin James, NASC Managing Director, said:

“We are delighted to launch our Safe Scaffolding Charter. We feel it’s incredibly important to celebrate the various organisations that recognise the value of specifying NASC-only for their scaffolding requirements.

“Signatories clearly understand that NASC members are demonstrably safe, compliant and independently audited every year to ensure the high standards demanded in order to gain NASC full-contracting membership are maintained.

“They also understand how this benefits their business; including the reassurance and peace of mind gained by using experienced and expert scaffolding contractors.”

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mel Archer (Archway Services Ltd) | David Anderson (Allen & Foxworthy Ltd) | Brian Houston (Auditor) | Mick Sliney (Auditor) | Alastair Mackenzie (Auditor) | Craig Penketh (Auditor) | Colin Stevens (Auditor) | Kevin Fitzpatrick (Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services UK Ltd T/A SGB) | Alan Lilley (Commercial Scaffolding Ltd) | Wayne Connolly (Connolly Scaffolding Ltd) | Lee Rowswell (GKR Scaffolding Ltd) | Jamie McGuire (NASC) | Phil Heffernan (Scaffold Erection Services Ltd)

AUDIT CHAIRMAN'S NOTE



Until recently the auditing of our members took place over a 15 month cycle (September – May) which saw every full contracting member receive a site audit within that timeframe. The growing membership has led to the site audit schedule needing a bit more flexibility so our auditors can spread the audits more evenly over the year which we feel will prevent any companies falling behind in the site audit schedule. Any member affected will receive a short extension to their membership certificate as we are fully aware of the importance of this document.

It's been 2 years since the full membership audit was moved online and every member has completed the process at least once now. Like with every change it does take a bit of time to get used to the new system and we have had our challenges, but we are pleased with the online system

currently. We believe it makes the completion of the audit easier for the member, and the checking process easier for the auditors too, so it's a win win situation!

After our most experienced auditor NASC auditor Brian Houston MBE retired earlier this year it has left a space within the team to cover the Scotland region. Brian was a former NASC regional chair more than once, and also NASC Past President. Alastair Mackenzie who carried out audits in the London and Home Counties regions for nearly 10 years has also recently retired from auditing duties. Both gentlemen will be sorely missed and difficult to replace.

We are in the process of recruiting replacements for Brian and Alastair, as well as adding additional auditors to join the team.

Mel Archer,
Archway Services Ltd

AUDIT COMMITTEE LATEST



NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Following the launch of International Information Membership in August which allows non-contract scaffolding or hire, sale & manufacturing companies based outside of the UK to join the confederation, we will shortly be introducing NASC Design Membership.

This category of membership, solely for scaffolding designers, is being introduced because the NASC felt designers needed to meet a minimum set of criteria, more so than the criteria set for NASC Information Membership.

A working party created a set a Criteria which includes a minimum level of professional indemnity insurance as well as Public Liability and Employers Liability. NASC Design members will also be required to demonstrate that engineers hold a required level of qualification and in addition a minimum level of experience as a scaffold design engineer.

This new category of membership will be launched by the end of this year.



The yard inspection is becoming equally as important as the site inspection and it is gratifying to see the improvements of sites and yards recorded by our auditors. However, there remain some areas which frequently require attention, particularly the safe place of work for all operatives. This includes the provision of health, safety and welfare facilities in members' depots.

Once on site the client has the overall responsibility for this but at the depot(s) the onus is placed fairly and squarely with the member. Particular attention should be paid to the employer's obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and as amended from time to time. Obligations remain under PUWER, LOLER, COSSH etc and members should familiarise themselves with these regulations and ensure compliance at all times (including depot, travel and workplace) as issues identified in the yard during the audit will be recorded as a corrective action.

One area of concern is the suitability of racking/stillage systems for the storage of scaffolding components. We have found examples of poor ground conditions, overloading of racks, addition of 'temporary roofs', impossible or very difficult access points. The safest solution to this problem is to ensure the structure complies with TG20 in all respects and, as is likely, where it does not conform to TG20 then a specific design should be obtained from a suitably qualified design engineer. Where racks are extended/moved then a revamped/upgraded design and calculations must be obtained.

Members are given a timescale to either rebuild the racks to a design, or to get a designer to provide confirmation that the structure, as built, complies with TG20 before a new membership certificate will be issued.

The Health & Safety committee will be discussing this with a view of creating a new guidance note on this matter.

SSIP AND COMMON ASSESSMENT STANDARD

We have just undergone our annual Registered Member audit by Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP). This means we can continue to offer free SSIP assessments to our members which a higher number of members are taking up, however, it's clear that a high percentage of members are not taking up this free service.

All SSIP Assessments completed by NASC members are reviewed by

our SSIP Assessor, Stephen Allen-Tidy. There are only 12 questions you need to supply evidence for and when done, you are issued with an NASC SSIP certificate (which is not related to the NASC audit certificate) and you are then able to apply for other SSIP schemes such as CHAS, SMAS, Achilles, with minimal paperwork and minimal fee.

We are aware there are additional products that SSIP schemes such as CHAS now offer (CHAS Premium) so although it doesn't qualify you for this, by using your NASC SSIP certificate you will deem to satisfy the minimum

requirement for CHAS, and then just pay the difference and submit additional paperwork. It still saves you time and money which is why NASC went down the route of joining SSIP.

In the near future, Build UK will be rolling out the Common Assessment Standard with the intention of being the only PQQ for supply chain to complete. A 'one ring to rule them all' type scenario which has been mooted before and something the NASC are finding out more about. There is a meeting for trade associations planned soon and we hope to bring you more news on this in due course.

ASITO CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

ASITO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Attendees

Chair: Mike Burr (LTC Specialist Scaffolding Ltd)

Robert Aitken (RDA Scaffolding Ltd)

Henry Annafi (NASC)

Lester Brown (HAKI Ltd)

Richard Cassidy (Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services UK Ltd T/A SGB)

Andy Gaynor (Allied Scaffolding Ltd)

Jim Grant (Safeway Scaffolding Ltd)

Phil Hinch (Lyndon Ltd)

Sarah Klieve (High Peak Scaffolding Ltd)

James Lewis (Brogan Group Ltd)

Carl Licorish (CITB)

Dave Mosley (NASC/CISRS)

Matthew Oates (Cape Industrial Services Ltd)

Sean Pike (Layher Ltd)

Ben Ramsey (Q.F.S Scaffolding Ltd)

Lynn Robb (Palmer's Scaffolding UK Ltd)

Meurig Thomas (Unite the Union)

Lynn Way (Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding Ltd)

Co opted members

David Adams (AIS Ltd)

Tony Barry (NCC Midlands)

Martin Carr (Excel Training)

Jonathan Gaunt (Altrad UK Training Services)

Eamonn Murphy (CITB NI)

Rob Nicholls (Safety and Access)

Eddy Rule (T2000)

Steve Odger (Simian Skill)

Brian Ward (NETA)

Bob Whincap (Orchard Consultancy)

ASITO (Access & Scaffolding Industry Training Organisation) is a committee made up of contracting scaffolding companies and the aim is to assess the training requirements, consider problem areas and suggest possible solutions for the scaffold industry.

In order to have meaningful discussion and debate around such topics a number of Training Providers, HSE representatives, Hire and Sales, Manufacturers/Suppliers and of course CISRS have been invited to attend.

The committee has made great in-roads into a number of short- and long-term objectives during 2019 and I'd like to thank all ASITO committee members for their input and support in the results we've achieved to date.

One long term aim has been to standardise courses, ensuring a candidate can attend a course in any CISRS centre throughout the UK and receive the same fundamental training and information. Obviously, every centre and instructor will add their own personality to the course however the presentations, literature, structures, test papers will remain the same whichever centre delivers the programme.

This has now been achieved for all the core scheme courses, COTS, Pt1, Pt2 and Advanced, the committee will however, continue to review and revise these courses on an ongoing basis. They are currently looking at the Supervisor course and are soon to start further a review of Systems training, following the introduction of Systems Scaffold Inspection courses this year.

The Standardisation Working Party has recently released (August 2019) a Scaffold Awareness course for scaffold users, site agents etc. The first course, which took place at NCC Scotland for delegates from Glasgow City Council Work, was very positively received.

We are very aware that the cost of training can mount up. As such over the years the group has always looked to find sources of funding to assist both members and the wider industry. In previous years ASITO has obtained funding from CITB for upskilling programmes such as System Scaffold Product Training Scheme (SSPTS) courses e.g. Haki, Cuplok, Layher etc which were delivered at centres across the UK.

Since the start of this year it has sourced over £85K in additional CITB funding for its membership for a wide range of training outside of the required Part 1, Part 2 etc. An additional sum has also been obtained to develop literature and resources in order to promote careers within the scaffolding sector.

Responding to a request from ASITO, CISRS arranged for a series of subsidised CPD courses, which were open to all scaffolding companies, be run across the UK this summer. This is the second year in which this initiative has taken place.

Availability of courses has always been a hot topic throughout the scaffolding industry. ASITO has listened to the contracting members requests and observations and liaised with the training providers to find solutions on many occasions. Issues with course availability tends to be regionalised and course specific, therefore making it difficult to apply an "across the board" approach. The subject has been discussed in depth at many ASITO, NASC Council and Regional meetings which resulted in a working party formed to review the situation and provide recommendations to CISRS. As a result, changes have been made by CISRS which include a change in the Instructor criteria, a change in the rules allowing for CPD courses to be run onsite and in additional core scheme centre locations.

Mike Burr,
LTC Specialist Scaffolding Ltd

ASITO COMMITTEE LATEST

CISRS TRAINING FUNDING AVAILABLE

In 2019 NASC created a £50,000 funding pot to help its members bring new recruits into the scaffolding industry.

The training fund will enable NASC full contracting members to apply for £125 funding for each new employee that completes the CISRS Operatives Training Scheme (COTS).

This initiative, which will help subsidise the initial training for up

to 400 operatives starting out in the industry and will run in tandem with existing payments for CISRS CPD, supporting those at the other end of the scale, experienced scaffolders, requiring refresher training on the most up-to-date industry guidance and best practice.

For more information visit <https://www.nasc.org.uk/information/training/>

CISRS SUPPORT IN RAISING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

In line with NASC's 'Head for Heights' campaign and wider industry support to raise awareness about mental health issues within the workforce, CISRS has now included a Mental Health Awareness module within its training programmes.

This is a short session aimed at pointing out signs of someone who may be experiencing potential issues and signposting relevant organisations which can offer help and support.



SCAFFOLDERS KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) has recently announced plans to phase out issuing cards under Industry Accreditation or 'Grandfather Rights'.

The CSCS proposal will have no impact on CISRS card holders as those who hold current valid Scaffold/Advanced cards but have not completed VQ (as it was not a requirement at the time of qualification into the scheme) will not be required to complete the qualification retrospectively.

CISRS withdrew Industry Accreditation over 30 years ago. NVQ/SVQ was introduced to the CISRS Scheme in 1996. All those commencing training after this date have been required to complete a VQ.

For more information visit <https://www.nasc.org.uk/cscs-withdrawal/>



ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THE SCAFFOLD DESIGN MARKET IS EVOLVING



Scaffolding and access solutions take an increasingly important role on construction sites often with important H&S, programme and cost implications. However, in the recent move towards digital construction and improved planning through Building Information Modeling (BIM) and other 3D initiatives, this important aspect of a development's success has been neglected due to its 'temporary' nature and the belief it has little bearing on the permanent structure or overall project delivery.

This is now changing. As a company, NASC Information member Independent Design House Ltd, took the decision in 2016 to evolve its approach to general temporary works design to embrace BIM and 3D as it was apparent the construction industry is inevitably moving in this direction.

"By investing heavily and developing our own bespoke software solutions we have developed a suite of scaffold applications which enable us to design and present scaffold in a 3D or BIM environment.

There are a number of benefits to using BIM. The concept of BIM is a collaborative live model where each design trade embeds their design into the

model. Essentially layers of drawings of the groundworks, drainage, frame, cladding, services and so on all bundled together which can be viewed by any user to enable their own design and incorporate it in to the model for the next user while using 3D tools to visualise clashes and optimise the layout.

For example, with scaffolding we would overlay our scaffold on to the model of the frame and then subsequent designers can review the scaffold in close up detail at any point of the building to determine if it provides suitable access for their operation, or whether it might clash with their product for instance.

This function of presenting all Temporary Works structures and Work Sequencing on to the BIM model is a major deviation from current practice but it is slowly gaining traction with major contractors and developers who recognise the inherent advantages it can offer for planning and cost control of major projects.

'Designing' in a BIM or 3D model is still a draughting exercise. It is incorrect to assume the software is in anyway checking the structural suitability of the scaffold or any other structure or material for that matter. In the same way when the model shows concrete, it is not determining the rebar content or suitability to span or support any load – it is simply the representation of the solution.

As software improves and industry practice moves towards recognising the benefits of BIM and 3D we at IDH anticipate an ever increasing requirement for Scaffold, Temporary Structures and Work Sequencing to be approached in this manner."

For more information contact IDH via info@idh-design.co.uk.

KEEP IT OUT OF REACH! DON'T USE A PHONE WHILE DRIVING

Half a million UK drivers still use their mobile phones while driving, according to a recent study by the Department of Transport. This puts both the driver and other road users in serious danger; any type of phone use – calls, texts, emails, social media and other internet use – is illegal and holding the phone in any way, even if it is just held between the knees, for example, is an offence.

In a bid to curb usage, the government doubled the penalties for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving to six penalty points and a £200 fine in March 2017.

Vocational drivers may even have their entitlements suspended by the Traffic Commissioner and newly-qualified drivers will automatically lose their licence under the points system.

Using a mobile phone with a hands-free kit can also be an offence if the

driver is distracted or does not have proper control of the vehicle at the time. The penalty is the same – six points and a £200 fine – so employers should carefully consider whether their staff should be expected to take calls on the move.

Mark Cartwright, the Freight Transport Association's Head of Vans and Light Commercial Vehicles, said: "Drivers who use mobile phones are now also liable to prosecution for the more serious offences of careless or dangerous driving if it can be proved that an offence was caused by failure to have proper control of the vehicle due to distraction.

"Penalties for careless and dangerous driving are substantially higher than for the specific mobile phone offence. Employers, managers, colleagues and callers may be legally implicated when a driver uses a mobile phone as causing, permitting, aiding, or abetting the infringement."

CITB FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING



Small and medium-sized businesses are being encouraged to apply to up to £10,000 in funding to support their training needs.

The CITB's Skills and Training Fund aims to cover more of the cost for short duration training and

qualifications, including leadership & management and health & safety. Businesses with up to 49 employees can apply for £5,000, those with up to 74 employees can seek up to £7,500, while £10,000 is available to those with up to £99 employees.

Applications can be submitted throughout the year.

Visit the Skills and Training page on the website to find out how to apply and download an application form:

citb.co.uk/skillsandtraining

FREE GUIDES AND RESOURCES NASC MEMBERS

A series of free guides covering common Health & Safety, HR and Employment Law issues have been made available to NASC members.

The resources can be downloaded via NASC Information member Citation's website: citation.co.uk/resources. Tutorials include Managing Sick Leave and Absences, How to Hold a Disciplinary, and Employee Rights During Probation, and more.

Got any questions or want a free business audit? Call 0345 844 1111 today. NASC members are also eligible for preferential rates.

ADVISORY PRODUCT NOTICE

A safety harness has been modified following concerns raised by the NASC's Health & Safety Committee.

The committee contacted Honeywell after noticing that the fall indicator back plate on the Miller H-Design Duraflex Safety Harness often broke when bending down to pick up equipment.

This made it unfit for scaffolding operations. Following correspondence with Honeywell, this product has been discontinued and replaced by an improved design.

The same harness was also being used within the Miller H-Design Starter Scaffolding Kit product no 1033778.

Alan Harris, Health & Safety Committee chairman, said: "As a trade body whose 250 contracting members collectively employ more than 17k scaffold operatives, the NASC has a duty of care to ensure that safety equipment is suitable for the work being carried out.

"With this in mind the NASC Health & Safety committee raised their concern directly with Honeywell, who in turn have replaced the existing harness with an updated product."



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