

Competence Required to Produce TG20:21 Compliance Sheets

The *Work at Height Regulations 2005* state that “strength and stability calculations shall be carried out for every scaffold unless ... it is assembled in conformity with a generally recognised standard configuration”. This obligation can be met by using the TG20 eGuide to generate a compliance sheet, which provides a ‘generally recognised standard configuration’ for each tube & fitting scaffold and therefore eliminates the need for a bespoke design.

TG20 compliance sheets specify the design and construction criteria for several types of common scaffolding configurations, including independent tied scaffolds with up to 3 inside boards, putlog scaffolds, internal and external birdcages, static, mobile and tied towers, lift shaft towers, loading bays and chimney stack scaffolds.

Compliance sheets may also be used during the planning stages of a project to determine which scaffolds can be constructed to a TG20 compliance sheet and those which require a bespoke design to be produced by a competent scaffolding designer.

Compliance sheets are created with the TG20 eGuide, by selecting from a series of options to define the site location, the dimensions of the scaffold, the maximum imposed loading and any required additional features, such as bridging, loading bays or pedestrian protection etc.

The eGuide performs an accurate assessment of the site wind exposure and produces a TG20 compliance sheet that is appropriate to each individual site and scaffold, along with additional compliance sheets for any additional add-on features, where required.

The NASC is often asked what level of competence is required for a person to produce compliance sheets for TG20:21 scaffolds.

The HSE state that ‘Competence can be described as **‘the combination of training, skills, experience and knowledge that a person has and their ability to apply them to perform a task safely’**. (<<https://www.hse.gov.uk/competence/what-is-competence.htm>>).

Competence of persons who prepare or check compliance sheets

Persons who prepare or check compliance sheets should have suitable knowledge and experience of scaffolding and associated practices as well as an understanding of the information contained within the clients’ brief. They should also have sufficient ITC skills required to use the device (PC, laptop or tablet and the TG20 eGuide software).

Employers have a responsibility to assess the competency of individuals who they require to prepare or check compliance sheets. Ideally, where possible, these persons should be appointed by the company’s ‘designated individual’ (DI) e.g., a senior manager or director. as required by BS 5975. Please refer to SG45 ‘Management of Scaffolding Operations to BS 5975:2019’ for more details.

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It is thought that generally, scaffolding contracts managers, site managers, supervisors and experienced CISRS qualified foremen should have appropriate knowledge and experience to suitably perform these tasks.

Competent persons should be able to interpret the client's brief and ensure that the correct information is entered at each stage of compliance sheet preparation. They should also have sufficient knowledge of the site and the project etc. to enable appropriate information, such as location, scaffold dimensions, materials, imposed loading and tie patterns etc. to be selected.

A knowledge of the eGuide functions and how to use it, as described in chapters 2 and 3 of the TG20:21 Operational Guide, is also required and suitable instruction/training should be provided to individuals where necessary.

NOTE: As stated in Section 2.1 of the TG20:21 Operational Guide, the sign-off section must be completed accurately to identify the specific scaffold, or group of scaffolds, to which the compliance sheet applies.

This is achieved by completing the 'Contact Details' and the 'Sign-off' sections of the compliance sheet. Information should include the contract number, client name, site address and scaffold reference numbers, where applicable. Any additional information, relevant to the scaffold or the contract, may then be included in the 'Notes' section below. Details of the persons responsible for producing and checking the compliance sheet, along with signatures, should then be recorded together with the date of completion.