

Purchasing guidelines for: EN 74-1 Couplers

Issued – September 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guidance note is to detail best purchasing practice for EN74-1: 2005 scaffold couplers. If couplers have been assessed and certified as a 'NASC Approved Product', then no further action is required, other than a visual inspection of your supplier's certificate of product compliance (a list of approved products can be found on the NASC website). If the couplers have not been assessed and NASC approved, then the guidelines below should be followed.

2. TEST DATA

Test data is the criteria to which the product is independently tested as seen on the test report example opposite, and should consist of:

- Annual testing should be on swivel couplers, right angle couplers and sleeve couplers for all suppliers / manufacturers, as follows:
- Slip force testing & failure force [max. load] testing on swivels & right angle couplers.
- Pull apart force testing for right angle couplers only.
- Cruciform bending / stiffness for Class B right angle couplers only.
- Slipping force and bending moment testing for sleeve couplers.
- Annual tests must be by a UKAS accredited facility or TUV / SGS.
- Full prototype testing to EN 74-1:2005 or EN 74-1:2022 by a UKAS registered external body should be available upon request.

xample materials testing
PO Number: XXXXXXXX
Test Report No: XXXXXXXX
Customer: XXXXXXXX
Sample Materials Testing were asked to perform the analysis reported below:
Material Information: EN74-1B DROP FORGED DOUBLE COUPLER
Description of sample: EN74-1
Material specification: EN74-1
Markings: EN74-1
Test date:
UNITED KINGDOM
P: +44 xxx xxxxx
F: +44 xxx xxxxx
info@xxxxxxxxxxxx.com
www.xxxxxxxxxxxxx.com
UKAS
9001

Scaffold Coupler Report
Tested in accordance with: See below

Slipping force
Test No. H1234
Tested in accordance with Section 2.3.1 of BS EN 74-1:2005
Requirements: Min Max
A1 Load at 20mm 10 20
A1 Load at 10mm & A2 at 20mm 10 20
Test Status: Pass

Failure force
Test No. H1235
Tested in accordance with Section 2.3.3 of BS EN 74-1:2005
Requirements: Min Max
Failure Force 10 20
Test Status: Pass

Cruciform bending and stiffness on Swivel Tube
Test No. H1236
Tested in accordance with Section 7.4.5 of BS EN 74-1:2005
Requirements: Min Max
XXXXXX 20.0 10/100mm 15
XXXXXX 2.0 10/100mm 5
XXXXXX 2.0 10/100mm 5
Test Status: Pass

This report only details quality control checks performed at Xample Materials Testing and does not mean that the above couplers have passed any section of EN 74 or they can be supplied as an EN 74 coupler, or of the relevant testing and analysis has not been fully completed in accordance with BS EN 74-1:2005

Issue Date: 21 August 2017
End of Report

Authorized Signatory: Name: L. Smith Position: Mechanical Testing Supervisor

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3. MATERIAL CERTIFICATION

You need to check that a material certificate of conformity/test report is issued for all supplied couplers. Opposite is an example of a material certificate of conformity / test report which should consist of:

- Confirmation that couplers meet the requirements of EN 74-1:2005.
- The specification should be clearly identified on the certificate of conformity.

Test Report No:

Purchase Order No: XXXXXXXX
Purchase Order Ref No: XXXXXXXX

Date of issue: XXXXXXXX
Test Date: XXXXXXXX

Scaffolding Coupler Report

The following report details performed on 3 Steel Drop Forged Double Coupler samples tested on 48.3 OD x 4 mm thickness Steel tube (RT sa) & 48.3 OD Steel bar (RB) in accordance with the relevant sections of BS EN74-1:2005 as stated below.

Coupler Identification Details.	
Coupler Type	Steel Drop Forged Double Coupler
Marking	EN74-1B M XXXX 0617
Class	B
Material Specification	BS EN 74-1:2005
Engineer	



Results:

Design
The design of the coupler complied with the requirements of the relevant items in clause 6.2 of the standard.

Dimensions and material characteristics
The measured dimensions, mass and material characteristics of the coupler were all within the tolerances as specified by the drawing.

Results of all test performances are mentioned below.

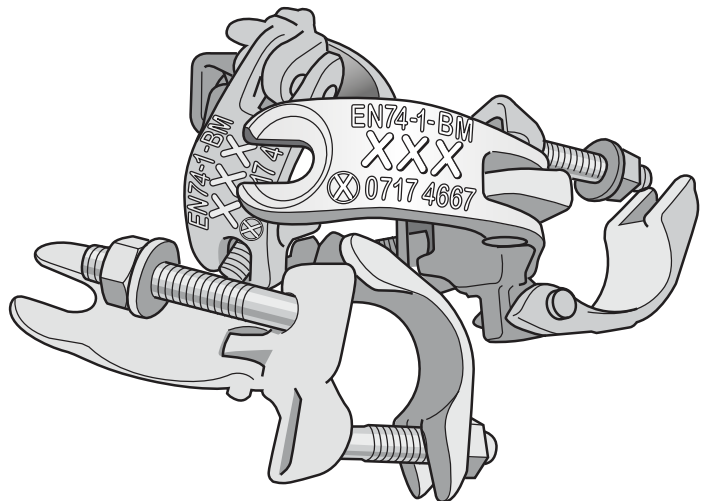
All requirements stated are minimum values.

Prepared by:  Checked by: 

4. MARKING REQUIREMENTS

You need to check that each coupler is marked on the flap or body with the following information:

- Reference to EN 74-1.
- Registered trade mark, or the manufacturer's name [or both] shown as XXX opposite.
- Year of manufacture [minimum last two digits].
- Coupler class [A or B].
- Type of ongoing production inspection: [L or M – L: being internal quality control, M: being both internal and external quality control].



REFERENCES AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

Standards:

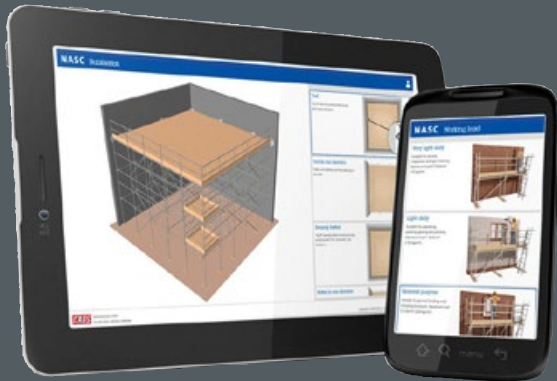
- BS EN 74-1: 2005 Couplers, spigot pins and baseplates for use in falsework and scaffolds - Part 1: Couplers for tubes - Requirements and test procedures Scaffold. Withdrawn
- BS EN 74-1:2022+A1:2025 Couplers, spigot pins and baseplates for use in falsework and scaffolds - Couplers for tubes. Requirements and test procedures

NASC Guidance, including:

- TG17 Identification of EN74- 1 Couplers
- TG20 Operational Guide, Section 4.3 Couplers

NOTE: NASC guidance is generally updated every five years so consult website for latest version.

Guidance that makes a difference



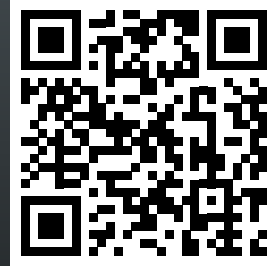
- Comprehensive industry guidance, recognised by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE)
- Targets all safety and commercial risks, ensuring your business remains safe and profitable
- Meticulously researched and written by experienced professionals, focused on improving the scaffolding industry
- Aimed at the busy general manager with user friendly, step-by-step advice
- Cutting edge technical guidance on best practice, including ePortal and compliance sheets, that could save you thousands of pounds
- Guidance used by the whole industry – but NASC members receive much of it free and the rest at a huge discount of up to 82%.

“Setting the Standard for Scaffolding”



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Email: enquiries@nasc.org.uk



Scan to visit the
NASC Shop

www.nasc.org.uk

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