



**Labour and Advanced Education**  
Occupational Health and Safety Division

# HAZARD ALERT

## Securing Scaffolding Planks/Decks

Date of Issue: November 21, 2011

### Hazard Summary

Scaffolding is commonly used on many construction worksites; appropriate care and precautions need to be taken when erecting, using and dismantling scaffolds to ensure accidents and falls do not occur.

An accident took place whereby a scaffolding plank, also known as a "macdeck" or manufactured work platform, slid along the top rail of an end frame scaffolding system and out from underneath the workers whom were using it; causing them to fall.

### Preventive Measures

#### Regulatory:

Section 20(1)(c) of the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations require that

- a work platform shall be: *securely fastened in place, so as to prevent movement, by cleating or wiring or such other means of fastening as provides an equivalent level of safety.*

Section 18(2)(b) of the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations require that

- no scaffold shall be: *operated or supplied in the absence of the manufacturer's specification ...*

Note the manufactures specifications for many scaffolding systems state that the deck must be secured so that it cannot move.

Also Section 23(1) and (2) of the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations require that

- every scaffold be inspected *by a competent person each day prior to use, for defects, damage, deterioration or loosening that may affect its strength*
- erection and dismantling of every scaffold *be supervised by a competent person*