

Choosing a safe mobile tower



**Only buy or hire a tower
which conforms to EN1004.**

Your life or the lives of
others may depend on it

“ Selecting the correct equipment is essential to safe working.
Follow the links in **www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/** to
the ‘Work at height Access equipment Information Toolkit’ (WAIT) ”

There is a significant and serious difference between these scaffolding towers

Not EN1004!

EN1004

NOT EN1004

- Often made from painted or galvanised steel and sometimes referred to as “Domestic” or H frame tower
- Use loose scaffold boards or DIY platforms which can break or move and do not have trapdoors to prevent falls
- Do not have built-in access to ensure safe ascent and descent
- Not supplied with the required stabilisers to prevent overturning
- Have frames with gaps or heights that would not prevent a fall

Tower scaffolds come in many different shapes and sizes from many different suppliers so how can you be sure that the one that you use is safe?

EN1004

- Will be marked with an EN1004 label
- Have purpose designed platforms with safe trapdoor entry and exit
- Have built in access for safe ascent and descent
- Supplied with the correct size and quantity of stabilisers to prevent overturning
- Have the correct quantity and number of guardrails with the correct gaps and dimensions to prevent a fall

WHAT IS EN1004 (BS EN1004)?

EN1004 or BS EN1004 is the European product standard for mobile access towers (scaffold towers). Towers which conform to this standard must meet minimum safety requirements.

THE CRITICAL SAFETY FEATURES OF EN1004 TOWERS

- **PROPER PLATFORMS AND THE RIGHT QUANTITY!**

EN1004 towers have the right quantity of purpose designed platforms, supplied with the tower, which can be securely fitted and are provided with safe trapdoor access. They are not makeshift affairs made from bits of scaffold board or DIY pieces of plywood.

In an EN1004 tower you will be supplied with sufficient platforms to install one at 2m intervals during assembly and dismantling. This ensures that you can assemble and dismantle the tower from a safe and secure position on a platform with guardrails. You should NEVER stand on the frames of a tower when assembling and dismantling as you are very likely to slip and fall!

- **STABILISERS ARE NOT OPTIONAL**

EN1004 towers have stabilisers supplied as part of the tower and not offered as accessories. Mobile towers must be fitted with stabilisers when used freestanding.

- **SAFE ACCESS! e.g. Photo 1**

You must never climb up the outside of a tower or lean a ladder against it to gain access to the platform. If you do then the tower will become very unstable and will overturn.

EN1004 towers have built in access equipment with safe distances between the rungs and slip resistant climbing surfaces to ensure that you can ascend and descend from the platform safely.

- **SAFE GUARDRAILS! NEVER WORK ON A PLATFORM WITHOUT GUARDRAILS!**

The correct height and dimension of guardrails around the whole of the platform are vital to ensure that you do not fall from a tower. Remember that falls from even a few feet can result in death and often result in serious injury. The guardrails of EN1004 towers meet the minimum height requirements at all points around the platform.

- **CAN BE ASSEMBLED AND DISMANTLED SAFELY! e.g Photo 2**

- **YOU SHOULD NEVER STAND ON AN UNPROTECTED PLATFORM WHEN BUILDING OR DISMANTLING THE TOWER**

There are only two recognised safe systems of building and dismantling scaffold towers. The key rule in both is that you must NEVER stand on an unprotected platform – that is a platform which is not fitted with guardrails around all the edges.

The two SAFE systems are called 3T (Through The Trap) and AGR (Advance Guardrail).

EN1004 towers are specifically designed so that they can be built using one of the two methods.

With 3T, the user is always seated in a protected position within a platform trapdoor opening when installing or removing the guardrails.

AGR systems allow the user to install the guardrails in advance so they never stand on an unprotected platform. ALWAYS assemble and dismantle the tower from a safe and secure position on a platform with guardrails. You should NEVER stand on the frames of a tower when assembling and dismantling.

- **COMPREHENSIVE USER INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION!**

All EN1004 towers are supplied with detailed user instructions and critical safety information specifying the use of either the 3T or AGR system of assembly and dismantling. You must follow these instructions and the safety information precisely.



“HAE supports this guidance and PASMA’s efforts to inform users. It is imperative to select safe equipment when working at height”

BEFORE USING A SCAFFOLDING TOWER

Towers in the workplace

If you are using any item of work at height equipment in the workplace including a scaffold tower, either as an employee or as a self-employed person, then the Work at Height Regulations apply to you.

You must carry out a proper risk assessment for the task before you start work.

You must be competent to build and dismantle the tower and to carry out a pre-use inspection on the assembled tower and complete the necessary pre-use inspection record in accordance with the regulations.

The tower components must also be inspected at suitable intervals and an appropriate record kept for those inspections.

If you are in any doubt about your competence and your ability to comply with the regulations then contact PASMA for further advice.

Towers at home

If you are using a scaffold tower at home for your own domestic use then you should consider your own ability and knowledge and decide if you are capable of assembling, using and dismantling the tower safely.

EN1004 scaffold towers provide a very safe method for working at height if they are assembled, used and dismantled exactly following the manufacturer's instructions and information.

DON'T RISK YOUR OWN LIFE OR THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

ONLY BUY OR HIRE SCAFFOLD TOWERS WHICH CONFORM TO EN1004 (BS EN1004)

If you cannot afford to buy an EN1004 scaffold tower then consider hiring one instead. There are a number of benefits to hiring EN1004 scaffold towers instead of using cheap and dangerous substitutes. Hiring should be a better financial solution as well as the most important fact: you will be using safe equipment.



“**PASMA recommends** that you don't use towers which do not conform to EN1004. You risk your life every time you use them”

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