

## ULTRA ACCESS April Newsletter

### The correct installation and importance of "Aberdeen" / Structural Transoms

What are "Aberdeen Transoms"?

Structural Transoms, otherwise known as "Aberdeens" are scaffold components incorporated within all \*TG Compliant Tube and Fitting scaffolds.

Used as a way of providing a safeguard against the scaffold (theoretically) peeling apart due to regular Transoms (bearing the scaffold boards) only (usually) being fixed on Single Couplers, which have low-to-no loading capacity.

\*TG / NASC Technical Guidance, which are currently considered the general "best working practices" within the British scaffolding industry.

"Aberdeens" are fixed to both the inside row of Ledgers and the outside row with "Load Bearing Fittings" - generally with either Double Couplers or Band and Plate.  
(Readylock Transoms negate the need for Aberdeens, but are not always used within a scaffold structure).

They can be fixed to either the Ledgers or Standards, as of the opinion of Ultra Access, as long as they are fixed both to within 300mm / 12 inches of the scaffold's "Node Point" and on Load Bearing Couplers - with examples of suitable types within this publication here...



**Double Coupler**



**Band & Plate**

The "Aberdeens" should be installed at certain and regular intervals within the scaffolding structure - recommended as a minimum at every point where there is a Ledger Brace on each Lift, and would usually become part of the Scaffold Tie system, if it has them...

... regardless of the above they should be part of the scaffold, even if it's tied in or not.

These simple yet safety critical add-on's to the scaffold will add much needed strength to the overall structure and could well help reduce the risk of a scaffold collapse due to high winds or overloading.

On our numerous travels conducting our various types of excellent services for our clients across the UK we see many scaffolds without these structural transoms, and not only are all of these scaffolds outside of "best practice" compliance (unless for the reason stated above) they are also a very real risk of becoming structurally unstable in a worst case scenario.  
And why is that? - they are literally only extra 1 tube and 2 fittings every other Standard in most cases... adding them as standard practice is a sensible proactive safety measure.

ULTRA ACCESS  
Scaffold Technical Support

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