

# Temporary Works

Temporary works and the management thereof remain a much-discussed topic on site.

For the purposes of this discussion, let's look at Form and Support Work and Scaffolding as two separate subjects.

## Scaffolding:

**GN 489 of 2 June 2017 Construction Regulations Guidelines states the following:**

**“Scaffolding must comply with SANS 10085.”**

One needs to understand the requirements of the code to best understand the management of scaffold, but here are a few basics that you need to know:

- Scaffold under 60m does not need to have a design, as long as it is built in accordance with the requirements of the code.
- Scaffold over 60m must be designed by a competent person.
- Scaffold must be inspected as follows:
  - Weekly;
  - After alterations;
  - After inclement weather;
  - After any mishap resulting in jarring, tilting or overloading;
  - Before dismantling.
- A register of all inspections must be kept on site.
- These registers must properly identify the scaffold location and type.
- All scaffold must be properly tagged - either safe or un-safe for use.
- No one may alter or tamper with a scaffold if they are not competent to erect scaffolding.
- All scaffold structures must be formally handed over to the user and there must be a written record kept on file.



One needs to apply reasonability when erecting “hop up” platforms that could be built and dismantled numerous times on a daily basis.

Any scaffold that falls outside the parameters of the standards set out in the code must be designed by a competent person.

## Form and support work:

The guidance notes to the Construction Regulations state that a contractor can appoint numerous people to design, approve and inspect temporary works.

In many cases, the designer works for a supplier of formwork systems and will not take on the responsibility of performing inspections. This is normally left to the contractor installing the system. In the case of a formwork sub-contractor providing the full service, their appointed designer will probably sign off the erected system.

It is of utmost importance that the inspector understands the design and is able to apply the design when inspecting. This also goes for the person supervising the installation of the formwork, as well as the persons installing the system.

Proper training needs to be given to the erectors to ensure that they understand the system, the components to be used and the design for the temporary works.

There are a number of documents and inspections that must be in place on site to manage formwork:

- A document giving written permission to cast concrete.
- An inspection sheet filled in during the pouring of concrete.
- A daily inspection record of the formwork until the formwork is stripped and the back propping has been installed.
- A document giving permission to strip the formwork.
  - This document is normally provided by the Engineer based on the test cube crushing results.



It would be good practice to have an inspection sheet for the back propping as well.

At the Master Builders Association Western Cape, we are here to guide and assist you where possible, so please do not hesitate to contact Dudley ([dudley@mbawc.org.za](mailto:dudley@mbawc.org.za)) or Deon ([deon@mbawc.org.za](mailto:deon@mbawc.org.za)) for assistance.

