

If the wind speed is due to exceed 25mph (a wind strong enough to move large tree branches) the tower should be dismantled. If this cannot be done safely, tie it securely to a stable structure and/or weigh down its base with sandbags.

TOWER SAFETY

Never overload the decking. It's maximum Safe Working Load is 360kg.

Never lean anything against the structure and never use the decking for jobs that exert repetitive or excessive lateral forces. Lateral forces over 198N (equivalent to lifting a 20kg weight) make the structure unstable.

Never use boxes, steps and so on to gain extra height and never reach too far out to one side.

Never place excessive and/or prolonged strain on handrails or toe-boards.

If you need to move the structure to a new site, dismantle it and rebuild at the new location.

GETTING STARTED

Erecting and bridging towers requires a team of able-bodied workers – two for the actual assembly, plus one or more helpers to pass up components.

Make sure everyone on the team is familiar with the components and understands these instructions.

Erect the towers to be bridged according to the instructions supplied with them, making sure the workplatforms providing access to the bridge are parallel, level and at exactly the same height.

Make sure the platforms at both ends of the bridge are of the FIXED DECK type. Do not use hinged platforms.

If the towers are to be bridged at the very top, be sure to specify walk-through guard rails to provide access to the bridge.

If the towers are to be bridged other than at the very top, specify walk-through frames for the inner faces of both towers at the required level when ordering.

Having erected and double-checked the two towers, haul up the decking and engage its end-hooks on the appropriate rungs to form a level bridge.

Next, fit the decking's handrail posts at regular intervals along both sides of the bridge. Lift the base-clamp's locking pin, hook the clamp onto the decking's integral toeboard, then lower the pin to hold it securely in place.

Note that the posts are telescopic, allowing the height of the handrail to be adjusted if desired. Simply disengage the C-clip, raise or lower the top section of post as required, then replace the C-clip making sure its locking-pin passes through a hole in both sections of post.

Finally, clamp the handrails themselves to the uprights – two per side – and double-check that everything is secure and ready for use.

EQUIPMENT CARE

Never use the tower and/or decking for anything other than its intended purpose – as a light-duty workplatform. If it will not do what you want with reasonable ease, assume you have the wrong tool for the job. Contact your local HSS Hire Shop for advice.

Handle components with care. Avoid dropping them, knocking them, or otherwise exposing them to damage.

Keep the equipment clean, paying special attention to the decking's floor. You will find this less of a chore if you clean up regularly, rather than wait until the end of the hire period.

When not in use, store the equipment somewhere clean, dry and safe from thieves.

FINISHING OFF

To dismantle the decking, simply follow the erection instructions in reverse.

This should be done by an able-bodied team of workers – two to tackle the actual dismantling plus one or more helpers to receive the various components and store them away.

Always ensure components are adequately supported to stop them falling before releasing their fixings.

If components jam, persevere! Wiggle and pull them until they come free. Don't damage components by using a hammer or otherwise forcing them apart.

Always lower components to the ground on a rope. Simply dropping them could result in damage and serious personal injury.

Finally, clean the equipment with a damp cloth (never use cleaning agents) ready for return to your local HSS Hire Shop.

...any comments?

If you have any suggestions which would improve the information within this guide please fax your comments or write to the Product Manager at the address below
Fax: 0181-687 5001

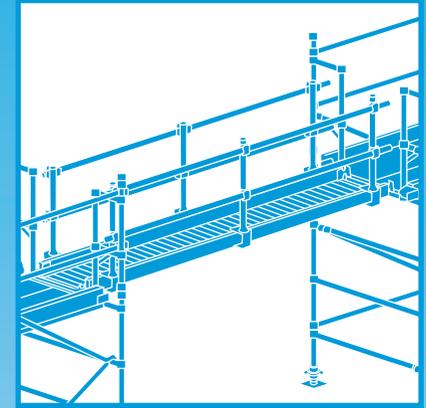


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Group Office: 25 Willow Lane, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4TS

Web Site: <http://www.hss.co.uk>

Operating & Safety Guide 815

HSS Hire Shops



Alloy Decking

Lightweight alloy staging offers the safest way to bridge between access towers or for general use as an extended work platform.



Code 83816

GENERAL SAFETY

For advice on the safety and suitability of this equipment, contact your local HSS Hire Shop.

It is the hirer's responsibility to ensure that all necessary precautions have been taken to safeguard the safety of any person erecting and/or using this equipment.

This equipment has been designed for use by a competent, able-bodied adult who has read and understood these instructions. If you suffer from either a temporary or permanent disability, you must seek expert advice before using it.

  Never use this equipment if you are feeling tired, ill, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Never work on a tower if you suffer from vertigo.

  Wear sensible, protective clothing and footwear offering good grip, plus workgloves and a hard hat. Avoid loose garments, jewellery and tie back long hair that could get in your way. Never erect or use towers and decking near overhead power lines or similar hazards. Keep children, animals and bystanders out of the work area.

Ensure towers are on firm, level ground. DO NOT use them on slopes or on soft ground where there is a risk of subsidence. NEVER suspend towers from another structure.

Always double-check that towers and decking are correctly built and level before use – and at regular intervals thereafter. In particular, ensure the stabilisers supplied with the towers are correctly deployed.

Check the equipment before use and at regular intervals thereafter. If it shows signs of damage or excessive wear, DO NOT USE IT. Return it to your local HSS Hire Shop.

Once complete, climb only the towers' ladder frames. During erection, climb span rungs only if necessary.

Always climb the inside of the tower, keeping your feet in the middle of the rungs and gripping ladder sides firmly with both hands.

Never carry anything when climbing, unless you can do so leaving both hands free. Haul things up after you, ideally within the tower, using stout rope and secure knots. Alternatively, use specialist lifting equipment available from your local HSS Lift & Shift depot.

Never use towers or decking in windy weather, allowing for the fact that, in blustery weather and on exposed sites or near tall buildings, gusts can be surprisingly strong.

If the wind speed exceeds 17mph (a moderate breeze strong enough to blow dust and paper about) evacuate the structure until conditions improve.

