

URGENT SAFETY ALERT

SCAFFOLD STAIR FAILURE



Please undertake a site safety audit on ALL Scaffold Stair tread systems. A number of incidents have occurred in Queensland where modular scaffolding stair units have dropped or stair treads have failed.

Any faulty/inadequate stair tread systems identified through this process should be removed from service immediately.

For further information please visit https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/news/safety-alerts/whsq/2015/stair-module-failures-on-scaffolding/_nocache.

There are a number of factors that contribute to the risk of stair modules falling off the supporting transoms, including the following:

- Inadequate support provided by the scaffolding transoms underneath both ends of the stair module, for the width of the module. In other words, the gap between the end of the module and the vertical face of the transom is too big (see Photograph 4) – often caused by the stair module being too short or the scaffolding not being square.
- Insufficient welds being located at critical points of the stair modules – often due to ‘tack’ welds being used instead of continuous or stitch welds (see Photograph 3).
- Stair modules, including welds, being damaged or cracked – particularly during assembly, dismantling and transport.
- The supporting transoms underneath the stair module being able to twist or rotate – possibly due to loose connections.