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# Protecting scaffold tower users from Covid-19

**A new guidance document helping managers and health and safety professionals keep scaffold tower users safe during the Covid-19 pandemic is available free of charge from PASMA.**

The guidance is for anyone responsible for the health & safety of tower users. It outlines the challenges of returning to work during the pandemic and delves into issues such as how long the virus can last on aluminium surfaces, how rescue plans will be affected, and how workers can avoid passing instruction manuals to each other. The guidance also recommends ways of assembling a tower while socially distancing from others. One of the suggestions in the document is to use one person towers specially designed to be built and dismantled by individuals working alone.

As PASMA training resumes, the guidance document also addresses the need for people to be protected during PASMA courses, highlighting the protective measures that delegates can expect to see in place. This includes e-learning and increased hygiene and cleansing. The guidance also explains how PASMA cardholders can extend their qualification if it's due to expire before the holder can safely manage to visit a training centre.



*Examples of one person towers from Euro Towers and Pop Up Products*



*Delegates keeping their distance during recent PASMA training courses.*

PASMA chairman, Roger Verallo, said: "Keeping tower users safe means they must now be protected from coronavirus as well as from falls and other injuries. Businesses are facing the unprecedented challenge of getting their people safely back to work during this pandemic. Scaffold towers are only a small part of what needs to be considered, but scaffold towers are what PASMA knows best. We realised we could use our expertise to support companies by helping them ensure every safety angle is covered."

Visit [pasma.co.uk/covid-19](http://pasma.co.uk/covid-19) to read the guidance.



**PASMA**  
chairman  
**Roger**  
**Verallo**

# Withdrawal date confirmed for EN 1004:2004



The 2004 edition of EN 1004 - the design standard for mobile access towers - is due to be withdrawn on 17th May 2021. The revised version - EN 1004:2020 - will be published this month, making the 2004 version obsolete however the older standard will run alongside new standard until May 2021. The move follows a recent vote in favour of extending the withdrawal period to one year, effectively providing a transition period during which designers, manufacturers and suppliers can switch to providing towers that comply with the new standard.

### What's changing?

The new standard includes numerous technical and editorial adjustments, such as clarification that EN 1004 only applies to mobile towers on wheels, not towers on baseplates (covered in BS 1139-6). There is also a significant change affecting low level towers. Work platforms under 2.5 metres will now fall within the scope of EN 1004 for the first time, as the standard now includes towers from the ground up (rather than from the current 2.5 metres). For towers with working platforms under two metres, it will be possible for manufacturers to develop products that enable easier access.

### What support is available?

Visit [pasma.co.uk/en1004](http://pasma.co.uk/en1004) for the latest information and guidance. Anyone interested can register to receive the association's free guide to the revised EN 1004, which includes practical guidance and useful information tailored for those responsible for the health and safety of tower users. PASMA is also inviting questions or comments on the upcoming changes, including any impacts the revision will have, or any specific support or guidance that users would like from PASMA that have not already been addressed.

# EN 1298 to become EN 1004 Part 2



The EN 1298 standard that denotes what should be included in instruction manuals for mobile access towers is also being revised. The working group responsible for the revisions is chaired by PASMA technical director Don Aers. The group agreed that it would be sensible for EN 1298 to become part of EN 1004, the standard for the towers themselves, and this has now been approved clearing the way for the revised EN 1298 to be published as EN 1004 Part 2. The group has already completed a first draft of the new standard which will be put to a vote by members of CEN, the European body responsible for standardisation. PASMA will keep the industry updated on the progress of the revision and share any developments.

## Where to follow PASMA news

You can keep up to date with the latest tower news, views and resources by subscribing to the PASMA newsletter via the Association's social media platforms.



For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit [www.accessindustryforum.org.uk](http://www.accessindustryforum.org.uk) and [www.nofallsfoundation.org](http://www.nofallsfoundation.org)