

1967. No. 175

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FACTORIES

The Construction (Working Places) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967

REGULATIONS, DATED 30TH JUNE 1967, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1965.

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

	Reg.
PART I. Application and Interpretation	1-4
PART II. Exemptions	5
PART III. Safety of Working Places and Access and Egress ...	6-38
PART IV. Keeping of Records	39

REGULATIONS

The Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland in exercise of powers conferred by section 75 and 179(4) of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965(a) and of all other powers in that behalf hereby makes the following special Regulations:—

PART I

APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION

Citation, commencement and revocation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Construction (Working Places) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967 and shall come into operation on 1st November 1967.

(2) The following provisions are hereby revoked, that is to say,

(a) Regulations 6 to 33 of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1950(b);

(b) in Regulation 3(1) of the Construction (General Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963(c) the words from “every contractor” (in the first place where those words occur after subparagraph (b)) to “and of”; and

(c) Regulations 7 and 54 of the said Regulations of 1963.

(3) In Regulation 3(1)(a) of the said Regulations of 1963 “8” shall be substituted for “7”, and in Regulation 3(1)(b) thereof the reference to Regulation 54 shall be omitted.

Application of Regulations

2.—(1) These Regulations apply—

(a) to building operations; and

(b) to works of engineering construction;

(a) 1965. c. 20 (N.I.).

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1950, No. 221.

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1963, No. 87.

undertaken by way of trade or business, or for the purpose of any industrial or commercial undertaking, or by or on behalf of the Crown or any municipal or other public authority, and to any line or siding which is used in connection therewith and for the purposes thereof and is not part of a railway or tramway.

(2) The provisions of these Regulations shall be in addition to and not in substitution for or in diminution of other requirements imposed by or under the principal Act.

Obligations under Regulations

3.—(1) It shall be the duty of every contractor, and every employer of workmen, who is undertaking any of the operations or works to which these Regulations apply—

- (a) to comply with such of the requirements of the following Regulations as affect him or any workman employed by him, that is to say, Regulations 6 to 23, 25, 30, 31, 32, 36 and 38 and, in so far as they relate to the falling or slipping of persons, Regulations 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34 and 35: Provided that the requirements of the said Regulations shall be deemed not to affect any workman if and so long as his presence in any place is not in the course of performing any work on behalf of his employer and is not expressly or impliedly authorised or permitted by his employer; and
- (b) to comply with such of the requirements of the following Regulations as to relate to any work, act or operation performed or about to be performed by any such contractor or employer of workmen, that is to say, Regulations 37 and 39 and, in so far as they relate to the falling of materials and articles, Regulations 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34 and 35,

and it shall be the duty of every contractor and every employer of workmen who erects or alters any scaffold to comply with such of the requirements of these Regulations as relate to the erection or alteration of scaffolds having regard to the purpose or purposes for which the scaffold is designed at the time of erection or alteration; and of every contractor and every employer of workmen who erects, installs, works or uses any other plant or equipment to which any of the provisions of these Regulations applies, to erect, install, work or use any such plant or equipment in a manner which complies with those provisions.

(2) It shall be the duty of every person employed to comply with the requirements of such of these Regulations as relate to the performance of or the refraining from an act by him and to co-operate in carrying out these Regulations and if he discovers any defect in the plant or equipment to report such defect without unreasonable delay to his employer or foreman, or to a person appointed by the employer under Part II of the Construction (General Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963.

Interpretation

4. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say—

“ladder” does not include a folding step-ladder;

“ladder scaffold” means a scaffold with a working platform which is supported directly on a ladder or by means of a crutch or bracket on a rung or rungs of a ladder;

“lifting appliance” means a crab, winch, pulley block or gin wheel used

for raising or lowering, and a hoist, crane, sheer legs, excavator, dragline, piling frame, aerial cableway, aerial ropeway or overhead runway;

“lifting gear” means a chain sling, rope sling, or similar gear, and a ring, link, hook, plate clamp, shackle, swivel or eye-bolt;

“plant or equipment” includes any plant, equipment, gear, machinery, apparatus or appliance, or any part thereof;

“the principal Act” means the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965;

“scaffold” means any temporarily provided structure on or from which persons perform work in connection with operations or works to which these Regulations apply, and any temporarily provided structure which enables persons to obtain access to or which enables materials to be taken to any place at which such work is performed, and includes any working platform, gangway, run, ladder or step-ladder (other than an independent ladder or step-ladder which does not form part of such a structure) together with any guard-rail, toe-board or other safeguards and all fixings, but does not include a lifting appliance or a structure used merely to support such an appliance or to support other plant or equipment;

“sloping roof” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 35;

“slung scaffold” means a scaffold suspended by means of lifting gear, ropes or chains or rigid members and not provided with means of raising or lowering by a lifting appliance or similar device;

“suspended scaffold” means a scaffold (not being a slung scaffold) suspended by means or ropes or chains and capable of being raised or lowered but does not include a boatswain’s chair or similar appliance;

“trestle scaffold” includes a scaffold in which the support for the platform are any of the following which are self-supporting that is to say, split heads, folding step-ladders, tripods or movable contrivances similar to any of the foregoing; and

“working platform” includes a working stage.

PART II

EXEMPTIONS

Certificates of exemption

5. The Chief Inspector may (subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified therein) by a certificate in writing (which he may in his discretion revoke at any time) exempt from all or any of the requirements of these Regulations—

(a) any particular plant or equipment or any class or description of plant or equipment; or

(b) any particular work or any class or description of work;

if he is satisfied that the requirements in respect of which the exemption is granted are not necessary for the protection of persons employed or are not reasonably practicable.

PART III

SAFETY OF WORKING PLACES AND ACCESS AND EGRESS

General

6.—(1) Without prejudice to the other provisions of these Regulations, there shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be suitable and sufficient safe access to and egress from every place at which any person at any time works, which access and egress shall be properly maintained,

(2) Without prejudice to the other provisions of these Regulations, every place at which any person at any time works shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be made and kept safe for any person working there.

Provision of scaffolds, etc.

7. Without prejudice to the other provisions of these Regulations, where work cannot safely be done on or from the ground or from part of a building or other permanent structure, there shall be provided, placed and kept in position for use and properly maintained either scaffolds or where appropriate ladders or other means of support, all of which shall be sufficient and suitable for the purpose.

Supervision of work and inspection of material

8. No scaffold shall be erected or be substantially added to or altered or be dismantled except under the immediate supervision of a competent person and so far as possible by competent workmen possessing adequate experience of such work. All material for any scaffold shall be inspected by a competent person on each occasion before being taken into use.

Construction and material

9.—(1) Every scaffold and every part thereof shall be of good construction, of suitable and sound material and of adequate strength for the purpose for which it is used.

(2) Sufficient material shall be provided for and shall be used in the construction of scaffolds.

(3) Timber used for scaffolds shall be of suitable quality, be in good condition, and have the bark completely stripped off.

(4) Timber used for scaffolds, trestles, ladders, and folding step-ladders shall not be so painted or treated that defects cannot easily be seen.

(5) Metal parts used for scaffolds shall be of suitable quality and be in good condition and free from corrosion or other patent defect likely to affect their strength materially.

Defective material

10.—(1) No defective material or defective part shall be used for a scaffold.

(2) No rope or bond which is defective whether through contact with an acid or other corrosive substance or otherwise shall be used.

(3) All material and parts for scaffolds shall when not in use be kept under good conditions and apart from any materials or parts unsuitable for scaffolds.

Maintenance of scaffolds

11. Every scaffold shall be properly maintained, and every part shall be kept so fixed, secured or placed in position as to prevent so far as is practicable accidental displacement.

Partly erected or dismantled scaffolds

12. No scaffold or part of a scaffold shall be partly erected or dismantled and remain in such a condition that it is capable of being used unless—

(a) the scaffold as so erected or dismantled complies with these Regulations; or

- (b) a prominent warning notice indicating that the scaffold or part as the case may be, is not to be used is affixed near any point at which the scaffold or part, as the case may be, is liable to be approached for the purpose of use; or
- (c) access to the scaffold or part, as the case may be, is as far as reasonably practicable effectively blocked.

Standards or uprights, ledgers and putlogs

13.—(1) Standards or uprights of scaffolds shall—

- (a) where practicable, be either vertical or slightly inclined towards the building or other structure; and
- (b) be fixed sufficiently close together to secure the stability of the scaffold having regard to all the circumstances.

(2) The foot or base of any standard or upright shall be placed on an adequate base plate in a manner to prevent slipping or sinking, or its displacement shall be prevented in some other sufficient way.

(3) Ledgers shall be as nearly as possible horizontal and shall be securely fastened to the standards or uprights by efficient means.

(4) Putlogs or other supports on which a platform rests shall be securely fastened to the ledgers or to the standards or uprights, or their movement shall be prevented by other efficient means. Where one end of a putlog is supported by a wall that end shall extend into or on to the wall sufficiently to provide a supporting surface of sufficient area.

(5) The distance between two consecutive putlogs and other supports on which a platform rests shall be fixed with due regard to the anticipated load and the nature of the platform flooring. The distance with single planking shall not as a general rule exceed 3 feet 3 inches with planks of 1½ inches in thickness, 5 feet with planks 1½ inches in thickness, or 8 feet 6 inches with planks 2 inches in thickness.

Ladders used in scaffolds

14.—(1) Ladders serving as uprights or scaffolds shall—

- (a) be of adequate strength;
- (b) be placed so that the two stiles or sides of each ladder are evenly supported or suspended; and
- (c) be secured to prevent slipping.

(2) Ladder scaffolds shall be used only if the work is of such a light nature and the material required for the work is such that this type of scaffold can be used safely.

Stability of scaffolds

15.—(1) Every scaffold shall be securely supported or suspended and shall where necessary be sufficiently and properly strutted or braced to prevent collapse, and shall be rigidly connected with the building or other structure unless the scaffold is so designed and constructed as to ensure stability without such connection.

(2) Every structure and appliance used as a support for a scaffold shall be of sound construction, have a firm footing or be firmly supported, and shall where necessary be sufficiently and properly strutted or braced to prevent collapse and to ensure stability.

(3) Every scaffold which can be moved on wheels or skids (not being a suspended scaffold or slung scaffold) shall—

- (a) be constructed with due regard to stability and, if necessary for stability, be adequately weighted at the base;
- (b) be used only on a firm and even surface not so sloping as to involve risk of instability of the scaffold or any load thereon;
- (c) be adequately secured to prevent movement when any person is working upon it or upon any ladder or other plant or equipment, being a ladder, plant or equipment which is supported by the scaffold; and
- (d) be moved only by the application of force at or near the base.

(4) Loose bricks, drain pipes, chimney pots or other unsuitable material shall not be used for the construction or support of scaffolds save that bricks or small blocks may, if they provide a firm support, be used to support a platform not more than 2 feet above the ground or floor.

Slung scaffolds

16.—(1) No chain, wire rope, lifting gear, metal tube or other means of suspension for slung scaffolds shall be used unless the following requirements (in so far as they are applicable) are observed, (in addition as respects chains, ropes and lifting gear to satisfying the requirements of the Construction (Lifting Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963(a)), that is to say—

- (a) it is suitable and of adequate strength for the purpose for which it is used;
- (b) it is properly and securely fastened to safe anchorage points and to the scaffold ledgers or other main supporting members;
- (c) it is so placed as to ensure stability of the scaffold;
- (d) it is as nearly vertical as is reasonably practicable; and
- (e) it is kept taut.

(2) No rope other than a wire rope shall be used for the suspension of a slung scaffold.

(3) Where chains or wire ropes are used for the suspension of a slung scaffold, steps shall be taken to prevent such chains or wire ropes coming into contact at points of suspension with edges where this would cause danger.

(4) Every slung scaffold shall be secured to prevent undue horizontal movement while it is used as a working platform.

Cantilever, jib, figure and bracket scaffolds

17.—(1) No cantilever scaffold or jib scaffold shall be used unless it is adequately supported, fixed and anchored, has outriggers of adequate length and strength and is where necessary sufficiently and properly strutted or braced to ensure rigidity and stability.

(2) No figure scaffold or bracket scaffold supported or held by dogs, spikes, or similar fixings liable to pull out of the stone-work, brickwork or other surface in which they are gripped or fixed shall be used.

Support for scaffolds, etc.

18. No part of a building or other structure shall be used as support for a scaffold, ladder, folding step-ladder or crawling ladder or for part of a scaffold, ladder, folding step-ladder or crawling ladder, unless the part of

the building or other structure is of sound material and sufficiently stable and of sufficient strength to afford safe support. Gutters shall not be used as such supports unless they and their fixings are suitable and are of adequate strength and in the case of overhanging eaves gutters shall not be so used unless in addition they have been specially designed as walkways.

Suspended scaffolds (Not power operated)

19.—(1) The requirements of this Regulation (in addition, as respects lifting appliances, chains, ropes and lifting gear used in connection therewith, to the requirements of the Construction (Lifting Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963) shall be observed as respects—

- (a) every suspended scaffold; and
- (b) plant or equipment which is permanent plant or equipment of a building and which, but for the fact that it is permanently provided, would be a suspended scaffold;

being in any case a suspended scaffold, plant or equipment which is not raised or lowered by a power-driven lifting appliance or power-driven lifting appliances and no such suspended scaffold, plant or equipment shall be used unless it complies with the requirements of this Regulation.

(2) In the application of the succeeding paragraphs, references therein to suspended scaffolds shall be construed as references to suspended scaffolds to which this Regulation applies and as including references to plant or equipment of the kind referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(b).

(3) Every suspended scaffold shall be provided with adequate and suitable chains or ropes and winches or other lifting appliances or similar devices and shall be suspended from suitable outriggers, joists, runways, rail tracks or other equally safe anchorage.

(4) The winches or other lifting appliances or similar devices of a suspended scaffold shall be—

- (a) provided with a brake or similar device which comes into operation when the operating handle or lever is released; and
- (b) adequately protected against the effects of weather, dust or material likely to cause damage.

(5) The outriggers for a suspended scaffold shall be of adequate length and strength and properly installed and supported and, subject to paragraph (15), shall be installed horizontally and provided with adequate stops at their outer ends. The outriggers shall be properly spaced having regard to the construction of the scaffold and of the runway, joist or rail track on which the scaffold is carried.

(6) Where counterweights are used with outriggers the counterweights shall be securely attached to the outriggers and shall be not less in weight than three times the weight which would counterbalance the weight suspended from the outrigger including the weight of the runway, joist or rail track, the suspended scaffold and persons and other load thereon.

(7) The points of suspension of every suspended scaffold shall be an adequate horizontal distance from the face of the building or other structure.

(8) Every runway, joist and rail track supporting a suspended scaffold shall be of suitable and sound material, adequate strength for the purpose for which it is used and free from patent defect, shall be provided with adequate stops at each end and shall be properly secured to the building or other structure or, where outriggers are used, to the outriggers.

(9) The suspension ropes or chains of a suspended scaffold—

(a) shall be securely attached to the outriggers or other supports and to the platform framework or to any lifting appliance or other device attached thereto, as the case may be; and

(b) shall be kept in tension.

(10) Where winches are used with suspended scaffolds the suspension ropes shall be of such a length that at the lowest position at which the scaffold is intended to be used there are not less than two turns of rope remaining on each winch drum and the length of each rope shall be clearly marked on its winch.

(11) Every part of a suspended scaffold and all plant and equipment used for the purposes thereof shall be of good construction, suitable and sound material, of adequate strength for the purpose for which it is used and shall be properly maintained, and, where constructed of metal, shall be free from corrosion and other patent defects, being corrosion and defects likely materially to affect its strength. Adequate arrangements shall be made to prevent undue tipping, tilting or swinging of a suspended scaffold and to secure it to prevent undue horizontal movement while it is being used as a working platform.

(12) No rope other than a wire rope shall be used for the raising, lowering and suspension of a suspended scaffold, except that the raising, lowering and suspension may be carried out by means of fibre ropes and pulley blocks in the case of work to which paragraph (15) applies.

(13) The platform of every suspended scaffold shall—

(a) except to the extent necessary for drainage, be closely boarded, planked or plated; and

(b) subject to paragraph (15), be of adequate width to afford adequate working space at every working point and shall, in any event,

(i) be at least 25 inches wide if used as a footing only and not for the deposit of any material;

(ii) be at least 34 inches wide if used for the deposit of material; and

(iii) not be used for the support of any higher scaffold;

and shall be so arranged or secured that at each working position the space between the face of the building or other structure and the platform is as small as reasonably practicable; so, however, that where workmen sit at the edge of the platform to work there may be a space not exceeding 12 inches. Where necessary, devices shall be provided and used to keep the platform a sufficient distance from the wall when persons have to work in a sitting position.

(14) If a suspended scaffold is carried on fibre ropes and pulley blocks the ropes shall be spaced not more than 10 feet 6 inches apart.

(15) Where the work to be carried out from a suspended scaffold is of such a light nature and the material required for the work is such that a cradle or similar light-weight suspended scaffold can be used with safety and where such suspended scaffold is used, the following requirements shall not apply, that is to say—

(a) the requirement of paragraph (5) that the outriggers shall be installed horizontally and that stops shall be provided; and

(b) the requirements of paragraph (13)(b) as to the width of the platform.

The platform of a suspended scaffold to which this paragraph applies shall be not less than 17 inches wide.

Boatswain's chairs, cages, skips, etc. (Not power operated)

20.—(1) No boatswain's chair, cage, skip or similar plant or equipment (not being a boatswain's chair, cage, skip or similar plant or equipment which is raised or lowered by a power-driven lifting appliance) shall be used unless—

- (a) it is of good construction, suitable and sound material, adequate strength, free from patent defect and properly maintained;
- (b) the outriggers or other supports are of adequate strength and properly installed and supported;
- (c) the chains, ropes, lifting gear or other means of suspension used therewith (in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Construction (Lifting Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963) are securely attached to the outriggers or other supports and to the chair, cage, skip or similar plant or equipment or to any lifting appliance or other device attached thereto, as the case may be;
- (d) suitable means are provided to prevent any occupant falling out;
- (e) it is free of materials or articles liable to interfere with the occupant's handhold or foothold or otherwise endanger him;
- (f) suitable measures are taken to prevent spinning or tipping in a manner dangerous to any occupant;
- (g) in the case of any skip or other receptacle it is at least 3 feet deep; and
- (h) its installation has been, and its use is, supervised by a competent person.

(2) No boatswain's chair, cage, skip or similar plant or equipment (not being a boatswain's chair, cage, skip or similar plant or equipment which is raised or lowered by a power-driven lifting appliance) shall be used as a working place in circumstances in which a suspended scaffold could be used unless the work is of such short duration as to make the use of a suspended scaffold unreasonable or the use of a suspended scaffold is not reasonably practicable.

Trestle scaffolds

21.—(1) All trestles and supports used for the construction of any trestle scaffold shall be of good construction, suitable and sound material, adequate strength for the purposes for which they are used and free from patent defect and shall be properly maintained.

(2) A trestle scaffold shall not be used—

- (a) if the scaffold is so situated that a person would be liable to fall from its working platform a distance of more than 15 feet; or
- (b) if constructed with more than one tier where folding supports are used.

(3) No trestle scaffold shall be erected on a scaffold platform unless—

- (a) the width of the said platform is such as to leave sufficient clear space for the transport of materials along the platform; and
- (b) the trestles or supports are firmly attached to the said platform and adequately braced to prevent displacement.

Inspection of scaffolds, boatswain's chairs, etc.

22.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation, no scaffold (including any boatswain's chair, cage, skip or similar plant or equipment) and no plant

or equipment used for the purposes of any of the foregoing shall be used unless (in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Construction (Lifting Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963)—

- (a) it has been inspected by a competent person within the immediately preceding 7 days;
- (b) it has been inspected by a competent person since exposure to weather conditions likely to have affected its strength or stability or to have displaced any part; and
- (c) a report has been made of the results of every such inspection in the form set out in the Schedule and containing the particulars therein specified and signed by the person making the inspection:

Provided that sub-paragraph (a) shall not apply in the case of a scaffold no part of which has been erected for more than 7 days, and sub-paragraph (c) shall not apply to a ladder scaffold, a trestle scaffold or a scaffold from no part of which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not require a scaffold to be inspected by reason only that if it has been added to, altered or partly dismantled.

(3) In the case of a site where the employer for whom the inspection was carried out has reasonable grounds for believing that the operations or works will be completed in a period of less than 6 weeks, the provision in this Regulation requiring that a report shall have been made and signed shall be deemed to have been satisfied if the person in charge of the operations or works carried on by that employer at that site has himself carried out the inspection and is a competent person and if, within 1 week of the date of the inspection, he reports to his employer in writing that the scaffold, boatswain's chair, cage, skip or similar plant or equipment (as the case may be) and any plant and equipment used for the purposes of any of the foregoing was inspected by him and that he found it in good order or observed certain defects, as the case may be, and the date of such inspection and the results thereof together with the name of the person making the inspection are entered by the employer in the said form together with the said particulars.

Scaffolds used by workmen of different employers

23. Where a scaffold or part of a scaffold is to be used by or on behalf of an employer other than the employer for whose workmen it was first erected, the first-mentioned employer shall, before such use, and without prejudice to any other obligations imposed upon him by these Regulations, take express steps, either personally or by a competent agent, to satisfy himself that the scaffold or part thereof is stable, that the materials used in its construction are sound and that the safeguards required by these Regulations are in position.

Construction of working platforms, gangways and runs

24.—(1) Every working platform, gangway and run from any part of which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches shall be closely boarded, planked or plated: Provided that this requirement shall not apply to—

- (a) a platform, gangway or run consisting of open metal work having interstices none of which exceeds 6 square inches in area, if there is no risk of persons below any such platform, gangway or run being struck by materials or articles falling through the platform, gangway or run; or

- (b) a platform, gangway or run, the boards, planks or plates of which are so secured as to prevent their moving and so placed that the space between adjacent boards, planks or plates does not exceed 1 inch, if there is no risk of persons below any such platform, gangway or run being struck by materials or articles falling through the platform.

(2) No gangway or run shall be used the slope of which exceeds 1 vertical to $1\frac{1}{2}$ horizontal.

(3) Where the slope of a gangway or run renders additional foothold necessary, and in every case where the slope is more than 1 vertical to 4 horizontal there shall be provided proper stepping laths which shall—

- (a) be placed at suitable intervals; and
 (b) be the full width of the gangway or run, except that where necessary they may be interrupted over widths of not more than 4 inches to facilitate the movement of barrows.

Boards and planks in working platforms, gangways and runs

25.—(1) Every board or plank forming part of a working platform, gangway or run shall be—

- (a) of a thickness which is such as to afford adequate security having regard to the distance between the putlogs or other supports; and
 (b) not less than 8 inches wide, or, in the case of boards or planks exceeding 2 inches in thickness, not less than 6 inches wide.

(2) No board or plank which forms part of a working platform, gangway or run shall project beyond its end support to a distance exceeding four times the thickness of the board or plank unless it is effectively secured to prevent tipping, or to a distance which, having regard to the thickness and strength of the plank, renders the projecting part of the plank an unsafe support for any weight liable to be upon it.

(3) Suitable measures shall be taken by the provision of adequate bevelled pieces or otherwise to reduce to a minimum the risk of tripping and to facilitate the movement of barrows where boards or planks which form part of a working platform, gangway or run overlap each other or are not of reasonably uniform thickness where they meet each other or owing to warping or for some other reason do not provide an even surface.

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a working platform, gangway or run one side of which is contiguous to a curved surface of any cylindrical or spherical structure forming part of a work of engineering construction.

(4) Every board or plank which forms part of a working platform, gangway or run shall—

- (a) rest securely and evenly on its supports; and
 (b) rest on at least 3 supports unless, taking into account the distance between the supports and the thickness of the board or plank, the conditions are such as to prevent undue or unequal sagging.

(5) Where work has to be done at the end of a wall or working face the working platform at such wall or face shall, wherever practicable, extend at least 24 inches beyond the end of the wall or face.

Widths of working platforms

26.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (4) every working platform (other than working platforms of suspended scaffolds and working platforms referred to in Regulations 28(6)(c) and 35) from which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches shall—

- (a) if used as a footing only and not for the deposit of any material, be at least 25 inches wide;
- (b) if used for the deposit of material, be at least 34 inches wide and have a clear passage way between one side of the working platform and the deposited material adequate in width for the passage of persons being a passage way which is in any case at least 17 inches wide;
- (c) if used for the passage of materials, afford a clear passage way which is adequate in width for the passage of the materials without removal of the guard-rails and toe-boards being a passage way which is in any case at least 25 inches wide;
- (d) if used for the support of any higher platform, be at least 42 inches wide;
- (e) if used to dress or roughly shape stone be at least 51 inches wide;
- (f) if used for the support of any higher platform and is one upon which stone is dressed or roughly shaped, be at least 59 inches wide;

and in every case be of sufficient width to afford adequate working space at every part.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4) the following working platforms to which this Regulation applies shall be at least 17 inches wide—

- (a) a platform of a ladder scaffold or a platform supported directly by folding trestles or folding step-ladders or a platform under a roof used for work on or in the vicinity of the roof being a platform which is supported by or suspended from roof members or the roof, where in any such case the work thereon is of a light nature and of short duration in any one position and a platform less than 25 or 34 inches wide (as the case may be) can be used with safety; and
- (b) a platform which is used for work in connection with cylindrical or spherical metal structures.

(3) Where work at the face of a building or other structure is done from a working platform to which this Regulation applies the space between such face and the working platform shall be as small as practicable; so, however, that where workmen sit at the edge of the platform to work, there may be a space not exceeding 12 inches.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to a working platform to which this Regulation applies where it is impracticable by reason of limitations of space to provide a platform of the width required by the said paragraphs; so, however, that in any such case the platform shall be as wide as is reasonably practicable.

Widths of gangways and runs

27.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) every gangway and run from any part of which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches shall,

- (a) if used for the passage of persons only, be at least 17 inches wide;
- (b) if used for the passage of materials, be adequate in width for the passage of materials and in any case be at least 25 inches wide.

(2) The foregoing provisions shall not apply to a gangway or run where it is impracticable by reason of limitations of space to provide a gangway or run of the width required by the said provisions; so, however, that in any such case the gangway or run shall be as wide as is reasonably practicable.

Guard-rails and toe-boards at working platforms and places

28.—(1) Every side of a working platform or working place, being a side thereof from which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches, shall, subject to paragraphs (3) to (6) and except as provided in paragraph (7), be provided with a suitable guard-rail or guard-rails of adequate strength to a height of between 3 feet and 3 feet 9 inches above the platform or place and above any raised standing place on the platform, and with toe-boards or other barriers up to a sufficient height which shall in no case be less than 6 inches. Such guard-rails and toe-boards or other barriers shall be so placed as to prevent so far as possible the fall of persons, materials and articles from such platform or place.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Regulation 11, the outward movement of guard-rails and toe-boards or barriers shall (unless they are so designed and used as to prevent such movement) be prevented by placing them on the inside of the uprights or by other equally effective means.

(3) Where guard-rails are required to be provided, the distance between any toe-board or other barrier and the lowest guard-rail above it shall not exceed 30 inches.

(4) Guard-rails, toe-boards and barriers required by paragraph (1) may be removed or remain unerected for the time and to the extent necessary for the access of persons or the movement of materials or other purposes of the work; but guard-rails, toe-boards and barriers removed or remaining unerected for any of those purposes shall be replaced or erected as soon as practicable.

(5) On the side of a suspended scaffold next to the wall or working face—

- (a) guard-rails where required by this Regulation need not extend to a height of more than 27 inches above the platform if the work is impracticable with a guard-rail at a greater height; and
- (b) guard-rails and toe-boards or other barriers shall not be required if the workers sit at the edge of the platform to work and ropes or chains affording all the workers a safe and secure handhold are provided.

(6) None of the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply to—

- (a) the platform of a ladder scaffold if a secure handhold is provided along the full length of such platform;
- (b) the platform of a trestle scaffold when the platform is supported on folding trestles, split heads or similar devices or folding step-ladders;
- (c) a platform which is used only in the course of erecting any frame-work or prefabricated unit forming part of a building or other permanent structure for the purposes of jointing, bolting-up, riveting or welding work and which is used for such a short period

as to make the provision of guard-rails and toe-boards or barriers unreasonable if—

- (i) the platform is at least 34 inches wide;
 - (ii) there is adequate handhold; and
 - (iii) the platform is not used for the deposit of materials or articles otherwise than in boxes or receptacles suitable to prevent the fall of the materials or articles from the platform;
- (d) a temporary platform passing between two adjacent glazing bars of a roof with a sloping surface if those bars or the roof framework afford secure handhold along the full length of the platform:
- Provided that toe-boards or barriers shall be provided in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) except where the provision of toe-boards or barriers is impracticable on account of the nature or circumstances of the work;
- (e) a platform under a roof being a platform which is supported by or suspended from roof members or the roof and which is used only for work on or in the vicinity of the roof and of a light nature and of such short duration as to make the provision of guard-rails and toe-boards or barriers unreasonable if—
- (i) there is adequate handhold at every working position; and
 - (ii) the material required for the work is such that the platform can be used with safety;
- (f) a working platform or working place one side of which is contiguous to the concave surface of a cylindrical or spherical structure so long as reasonably practicable steps are being taken to prevent persons working thereon from falling a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches.

(7) Except as provided in Regulation 35, the provisions of this Regulation shall not apply to working platforms and working places being working platforms and working places to which that Regulation applies.

Guard-rails, etc. for gangways, runs and stairs

29.—(1) Except for the time and to the extent necessary for the access of persons or the movement of materials, stairs shall be provided throughout their length with hand-rails or other efficient means to prevent the fall of persons. If necessary to prevent danger to any person the hand-rails or other means shall be continued beyond the end of the stairs.

(2) Every side of any gangway, run or stairs from which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches shall be provided—

- (a) with a suitable guard-rail or guard-rails of adequate strength to a height of between 3 feet and 3 feet 9 inches above the gangway, run or stairs; and
- (b) except in the case of stairs, with toe-boards or other barriers up to a sufficient height which shall in no case be less than 6 inches and so placed as to prevent as far as possible the fall of persons, materials and articles. The space between any such toe-board or barrier and the lowest guard-rail above it shall not exceed 30 inches.

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a temporary gangway which is used only in the course of erecting any framework forming part of a building or other permanent structure for work of

such short duration as to make the provision of a gangway with guard-rails and toe-boards or other barriers unreasonable.

(3) Guard-rails, toe-boards and barriers required by paragraph (2) may be removed or remain unerected for the time and to the extent necessary for the access of persons or the movement of materials or other purposes of the work; but guard-rails, toe-boards and barriers removed or remaining unerected for any of those purposes shall be replaced or erected as soon as practicable.

Platforms, gangways, runs and stairs, etc. to afford safe foothold

30.—(1) If a platform, gangway, run or stair becomes slippery, appropriate steps shall as soon as reasonably practicable be taken by way of sanding, cleaning or otherwise to remedy the condition.

(2) Every platform, gangway, run or stair shall be kept free from any unnecessary obstruction and material and free from rubbish and any projecting nails.

Construction and maintenance of ladders and folding step-ladders

31.—(1) Every ladder and folding step-ladder shall be of good construction, of suitable and sound material and of adequate strength for the purpose for which it is used and shall be properly maintained.

(2) No ladder shall be used in which a rung is missing or is defective.

(3) Every rung of a ladder shall be properly fixed to the stiles or sides. No ladder shall be used in which any rung depends for its support solely on nails, spikes or other similar fixing. Where in the case of a wooden ladder the tenon joints are not secured by wedges, reinforcing ties shall be used. Wooden stiles or sides and wooden rungs of ladders shall have the grain running lengthwise.

Provided that the requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to ladders to which Regulation 35 applies.

Use of ladders and folding step-ladders

32.—(1) This Regulation shall—

(a) apply to ladders and folding step-ladders being ladders and folding step-ladders which afford a means of access, egress, communication or support to a person or persons employed; and

(b) not apply to any ladder lying upon a roof or to any crawling board or crawling ladder.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) no ladder standing on a base shall be used unless—

(a) except as provided in the next following paragraph, it is securely fixed near to its upper resting place, or, in the case of a vertical ladder near to its upper end:

Provided that where such fixing is impracticable the ladder shall be securely fixed at or near to its lower end;

(b) it has a level and firm footing and is not standing on loose bricks or other loose packing;

(c) it is secured where necessary to prevent undue swaying or sagging; and

(d) it is equally and properly supported on each stile or side.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) where it is impracticable in the case of a ladder standing on a base to comply with either of the requirements of sub-paragraph (a) of the last foregoing paragraph, a person shall be stationed at the foot of the ladder when in use to prevent it slipping.

(4) Paragraphs (2) and (3) shall not apply to a ladder which is not more than 10 feet in length and which is not used as a means of communication, if the ladder is securely placed so as to prevent it from slipping or falling.

(5) No ladder shall be used unless—

- (a) (i) it extends to a height of at least 3 feet 6 inches above the place of landing or the highest rung to be reached by the feet of any person using the ladder, as the case may be, or, if this is impracticable, to the greatest practicable height; or
- (ii) there is other adequate handhold; and
- (b) there is sufficient space at each rung to provide adequate foothold.

(6) Every ladder, other than ladders to which paragraphs (2) and (3) apply, shall before being used—

- (a) be securely suspended;
- (b) be secured where necessary to prevent undue swinging or swaying; and
- (c) be equally and properly suspended by each stile or side.

(7) No folding step-ladder shall be used unless it has a level and firm footing or while it is standing on loose bricks or other loose packing.

(8) No ladder or run of ladders rising a vertical distance of over 30 feet shall be used unless it is, if practicable, provided with an intermediate landing place or intermediate landing places so that the vertical distance between any two successive landing places shall not exceed 30 feet. Every landing place shall be of adequate dimensions and, if a person is liable to fall therefrom a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches, shall, except in so far as it is not reasonably practicable, be provided with sufficient and suitable guard-rails to a height of between 3 feet and 3 feet 9 inches above the landing place and with toe-boards or other barriers up to a sufficient height which shall in no case be less than 6 inches, so placed as to prevent as far as possible the fall of persons, materials and articles and so that the space between any toe-board or other barrier and the lowest guard-rail above it shall not exceed 30 inches. Where a ladder passes through an opening in the floor of a landing place, the opening shall be as small as is reasonably practicable.

Openings, corners, breaks, edges and open joisting

33.—(1) Paragraphs (1) to (3) apply to every opening, corner, break or edge being an opening, corner, break or edge which any person employed is liable to approach or near or across which any person is liable to pass—

- (a) in or of a roof (other than a roof to which Regulation 35 applies), floor, wall or other similar part either of a building or of any other structure whether the roof, floor, wall or other similar part of the building or of the other structure is complete or only partly complete or is in course of construction, maintenance, repair or demolition; or
- (b) in or of a working platform, gangway or run.

(2) Subject to Regulation 34, in the case of any such opening, corner, break or edge through or from which any person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches or to fall into any liquid or material so as to involve risk of drowning or serious injury there shall be provided either—

- (a) a suitable guard-rail or guard-rails of adequate strength to a height of between 3 feet and 3 feet 9 inches above the surface across which persons are liable to pass together with toe-boards or other barriers up to a sufficient height which shall in no case be less than 6 inches, so placed as to prevent as far as possible the fall of persons, materials and articles and so that the space between any toe-board or other barrier and the lowest guard-rail above it shall not exceed 30 inches; or
- (b) a covering so constructed as to prevent the fall of persons, materials and articles; any such covering shall be clearly and boldly marked to show its purpose or be securely fixed in position.

(3) Subject to Regulation 34, in the case of any such opening, corner, break or edge (not being an opening, corner, break or edge to which the last foregoing paragraph applies) through or from which materials or articles are liable to fall so as to endanger persons employed, suitable precautions by way of the erection of toe-boards, secure covering or otherwise shall be taken to prevent materials and articles so falling.

(4) Subject to Regulation 34, when work is done on or immediately above any open joisting through which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches, such joisting shall be securely covered by boards or other temporary covering to the extent necessary to afford safe access to or foothold for the work, or other effective measures shall be taken to prevent persons from falling.

Exceptions from Regulation 33

34.—(1) Guard-rails, toe-boards, barriers and coverings required by Regulation 33 may be removed or remain unerected—

- (a) where and when this is necessary in order to proceed with any permanent filling in, covering or enclosure; or
 - (b) for the time and to the extent necessary for the access of persons or the movement of materials or other purposes of the work;
- but guard-rails, toe-boards, barriers and coverings removed or remaining unerected for any of those purposes shall be replaced or erected as soon as practicable.

(2) Without prejudice to Regulation 28, Regulation 33 shall not apply to any opening, corner, break or edge created in the course of demolition operations to which Part X of the Construction (General Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963 applies, or to any opening, corner, break or edge created in the course of any other demolition operation, if in the course of such last mentioned demolition operation the opening, corner, break or edge is not left unattended.

Sloping roofs

35.—(1) In this Regulation “sloping roof” means a roof or part of a roof being a roof or part having a pitch of more than 10 degrees which is covered either wholly or partly and—

- (a) which is in the course of construction, maintenance, repair or demolition; or

(b) which is used as a means of access to or egress from operations or works on a roof or part of a roof being operations or works to which these Regulations apply.

(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (6) and (7) where any sloping roof has—

(a) a pitch of more than 30 degrees; or

(b) a pitch of 30 degrees or less and a surface on or from which a person is by reason of the nature or condition of the surface or of the weather liable to slip or fall to such an extent that he is liable to fall from the edge of the roof;

work thereon or therefrom shall only be carried out by workmen who are suitable for such work and the requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4) shall be complied with.

(3) Where any sloping roof is used as a means of access to or egress from operations or works on a roof or a part of a roof being operations or works to which these Regulations apply, sufficient and suitable crawling ladders or crawling boards shall be provided on that sloping roof.

(4) Where any work is done on or from any sloping roof sufficient and suitable crawling ladders or crawling boards shall be provided on that sloping roof and (except where the work is not extensive) either—

(a) a barrier shall be provided at the lower edge of the sloping roof, other than the upper surface of a tank or similar structure of metal construction, of such a design and so constructed as to prevent any person falling from that edge; or

(b) the work shall be done from a securely supported working platform not less than 17 inches wide which complies with the requirements of Regulation 28(1) to (4).

(5) Crawling ladders and crawling boards provided in pursuance of paragraph (3) or (4) shall be—

(a) of good construction, suitable and sound material, adequate strength for the purposes for which they are used, free from patent defect and properly maintained;

(b) properly supported; and

(c) securely fixed or anchored to the sloping surface or over the roof ridge or securely fixed in some other effective way, so as, in every case, to prevent slipping.

(6) The provision of crawling ladders or crawling boards shall not be required in the case of any sloping roof where the handhold and foothold afforded by the battens or other similar members of the structure are such that the said sloping roof is as safe for every person thereon as it would be if the said provision had been made.

(7) The requirements of paragraph (4)(a) and (b) shall apply only in the case of any sloping roof from the eaves of which a person is liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches.

(8) Suitable and sufficient means shall be provided to prevent the fall of materials or articles from a sloping roof.

Work on or near fragile materials

36.—(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of Regulations 33 and 35, no person shall pass across, or work on or from, material which would be liable to fracture if his weight were to be applied to it and so situated that if it were

to be so fractured he would be liable to fall a distance of more than 6 feet 6 inches unless such one or more of all or any of the following, that is to say, suitable and sufficient ladders, crawling ladders, crawling boards and duck-boards (which shall in any case be securely supported and, if necessary, secured so as to prevent their slipping) as are necessary are provided and so used that the weight of any person so passing or working is wholly or mainly supported by such ladders or boards unless his weight is supported by other equally safe and sufficient means.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Regulations 33 and 35, no person shall pass or work near material of the kind and situated as specified in paragraph (1) unless provision is made by means of such one or more of all or any of the following, that is to say, suitable guard-rails, suitable coverings and other suitable means as are necessary for preventing, so far as reasonably practicable, any person so passing or working from falling through the said material.

(3) Where any person passes across or near or works on or near material of the kind and situated as specified in paragraph (1) prominent warning notices shall, except where the material consists wholly of glass, be affixed at the approaches to the place where the material is situated.

(4) References in this Regulation to a person's weight shall be construed as references to the aggregate of his weight and that of anything he may for the time being be supporting by his person.

(5) All plant and equipment provided in pursuance of this Regulation shall be of good construction, suitable and sound material, adequate strength for the purpose for which it is used, free from patent defect and properly maintained.

Loads on scaffolds

37.—(1) A scaffold shall not be overloaded and so far as practicable the load thereon shall be evenly distributed.

(2) When any material is transferred on or to a scaffold it shall be moved or deposited without imposing any violent shock. Materials shall not be kept upon a scaffold unless needed for work within a reasonable time.

Prevention of falls and provision of safety nets and belts

38.—(1) Where by reason of the special nature or circumstances of any part of the work or of the access thereto or the egress therefrom it is impracticable to comply with all or any of the requirements of the provisions of Regulation 6, 7, 24 to 30, 33, 35 and 36, so far as they relate to the falls of persons, the requirements of those provisions shall be complied with so far as practicable and in any such case, except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) there shall in addition where practicable be provided and so erected and kept in such positions as to be effective to protect persons carrying on that part of the work or using the said access or egress suitable safety nets or safety sheets of such a design and so constructed and installed as to prevent so far as practicable injury to persons falling on to them:

Provided that such safety nets or safety sheets may be removed or remain unerected for the time and to the extent necessary for the access of persons or the movement of materials or other purposes of the work, but shall be replaced or erected as soon as practicable.

(2) Where by virtue of the preceding paragraph safety nets or safety sheets would be required to be provided for the protection of the persons

carrying on any part of the work or using the access thereto or the egress therefrom but all such persons are able to carry on that work or use the said access or egress while making use of safety belts attached continuously to a suitable and securely fixed anchorage, such safety nets or safety sheets shall not be required to be provided if there are provided and so used by those persons while carrying on that work and using the said access and egress suitable and sufficient safety belts or other suitable and sufficient equipment.

(3) In any of the following cases, that is to say—

- (a) where it is impracticable to provide all such safety nets or safety sheets as would be required to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1);
- (b) where it is not reasonably practicable so to provide all such nets or sheets by reason of the frequent movement of materials or other purposes of the work; and
- (c) where the work is of such short duration as to make the provision of all such nets or sheets unreasonable;

safety nets or safety sheets in accordance with the provisions of that paragraph shall be provided to the extent to which it is reasonably practicable to provide them and in any such case as aforesaid there shall also be provided (together with suitable and sufficient anchorages) suitable and sufficient safety belts or other suitable and sufficient equipment having suitable fittings and being of such a design and so constructed as to prevent serious injury in the event of a fall to persons using them.

(4) All safety nets, safety sheets, safety belts and other equipment provided in pursuance of this Regulation shall be properly maintained.

PART IV

KEEPING OF RECORDS

Reports, etc.

39.—(1) The reports required by Regulation 22 shall be kept on the site of the operations or works and when there are no relevant operations or works shall be kept at an office of the contractor or employer for whom the examination was carried out:

Provided that in the case of a site where the contractor or employer has reasonable grounds for believing that the operations or works will be completed in a period of less than 6 weeks, the contractor or employer may keep the said reports at his office.

(2) All reports and other documents required for the purposes of these Regulations shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any inspector and the person keeping any such report or other document shall send to any such inspector such extracts therefrom or copies thereof as the inspector may from time to time require for the purpose of the execution of his duties under the principal Act.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 30th day of June 1967.

(L.S.)

W. Slinger,

Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE

Regulation 22

FACORIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1965

CONSTRUCTION (WORKING PLACES) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1967
SCAFFOLD INSPECTIONS

FORM OF REPORTS OF RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS UNDER REGULATION 22 OF
SCAFFOLDS, INCLUDING BOATSWAIN'S CHAIRS, CAGES, SKIPS AND SIMILAR
PLANT OR EQUIPMENT (AND PLANT OR EQUIPMENT USED FOR THE PURPOSES
THEREOF)

Name or title of Employer or Contractor.....

Address of Site.....

Work Commenced—Date.....

Location and Description of Scaffold, etc. and other Plant or Equipment Inspected (1)	Date of Inspection (2)	Result of Inspection. State whether in good order (3)	Signature (or, in case where signature is not legally required, name) of person who made the inspection (4)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to
indicate their general purport)*

For the protection of persons employed on building operations and on works of engineering construction, these Regulations impose requirements as to the safety of the working places and of the means of access and egress to and from those places. In the case of building operations these Regulations replace similar requirements in the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1950.