

No: NRS 285

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Significant Event – Falling from height

This bulletin is for the attention of:

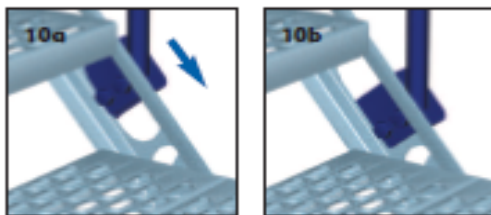
All staff whose work activities or projects involve the use of the HAKI Compact stair towers.

Background

A member of a contractor's staff was walking up a HAKI Compact stair tower when an inner handrail gave way and he fell through the gap. The individual struck the handrail of the flight below and subsequently tumbled down the stairs and onto the interim landing, approximately 2m below. He suffered bruising to his legs, back and neck.

Investigation

Investigations to date indicate that the inner handrail, which gave way, had not been assembled as per the manufacturer's instructions.



Install internal Handrail into holes in the stringer of the Stairs slide down until Locking Plate is at the bottom of the hole, then tighten the four nuts.



As manufacturers instructions show it is critical that the locking plate is slid down into the bottom of the 'stringer' before the nuts are tightened to secure the handrail fitting

Inspection of the stair tower involved in the accident indicated that the locking plate had been fixed to the top of the 'stringer' resulting in the handrail fitting not being properly secured

The correctly installed handrail fitting should look like this; as per the manufacturer's instructions

Action

- All sites that use HAKI Compact stair towers are to undertake an immediate inspection to confirm they have been assembled correctly.
- All projects should assure themselves that scaffolders and scaffolding contractors are trained and competent in any proprietary scaffold systems that they are using. These could include HAKI, Kwikstage, Cuplok, TRADlok etc. Training could be from the manufacturer or an approved Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) course (the latter would mean the system should be denoted on the scaffolder's CISRS card)

If you have any safety concerns, work should be stopped immediately and reported.