



WORKPLACE SAFETY NOTICE (WSN)

TOPIC GUIDANCE CONCERNING INSTALLATION OF EDGE PROTECTION AND PERIMETER GUARD-RAILING AT WORKSITES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM			Reference Number 2021/WSN/03
Approved by: Chief Inspector (IND)	Issue date: 18 June 2021	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 1

Purpose: This Workplace Safety Notice (WSN) serves to provide guidance to all principals, occupiers, employers, employees and self-employed persons concerning edge protection and perimeter guard-railing at all construction worksites in Brunei Darussalam in order to ensure the reduction of incidents involving fall from heights and being hit by falling objects.

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) would like to remind all principals, occupiers, employers and employees **with immediate effect**, to ensure that relevant safety measures shall be taken to protect workers onsite and to prevent any undue safety or health impact to the public.

SHENA hereby reminds all relevant stakeholders of the provisions contained under the Workplace Safety and Health (Construction) Regulations, 2014.

- Regulation 22 imposes a duty on the occupier to ensure that safety measures are taken to prevent any person from falling a distance of more than 2 metres. These safety measures include that in a work site, every open side or opening into or through which a person is liable to fall more than 2 metres shall be covered or guarded by effective guard rails, barriers or other equally effective means to prevent falls. It is also the duty of the occupier to ensure that every guard rail, barrier or other similar means of fall prevention shall:
 - (a) Be of good construction, sound material and adequate strength to withstand the impact during the course of work in the worksite;
 - (b) Be placed on the inside of the uprights and secured so as to prevent accidental displacement; and
 - (c) Be placed so as to prevent the fall of any person.

- Regulation 25 make the Protection against falling objects at a worksite **MANDATORY** where it shall be the duty of the occupier of a worksite to ensure that adequate overhead protection is provided in the worksite against objects that could fall on or hit persons.

EDGE PROTECTION AND PERIMETER GUARD-RAILING

- Edge protection (often referred to as a “guard-rail”) is used to reduce the risk of a person falling from open sides (see Figure 1) and through openings.
- Edge protection must be provided to the edge of a scaffold, walkway, ramp, and landing (see Figures 2 and 3) or wherever a person is at risk of falling from open sides. The protection must also be able to withstand the impact of a person falling against it. The dimension requirements for temporary edge protection are shown on figure 4.



Figure 1 Perimeter guard-railing



Figure 2 Handrails at open edges of stairway



Figure 3 Proper means of access to scaffolds

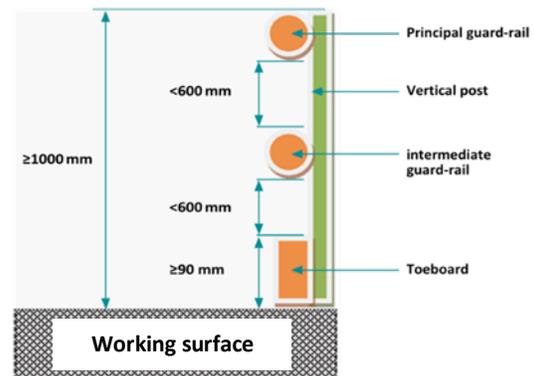


Figure 4 Dimension requirements for a temporary edge protection



Figure 5 Example of netting for high rise construction



Figure 6 Working platform with guardrails and toe boards installed



Figure 7 Barricades for open sides, marked with tape for visibility

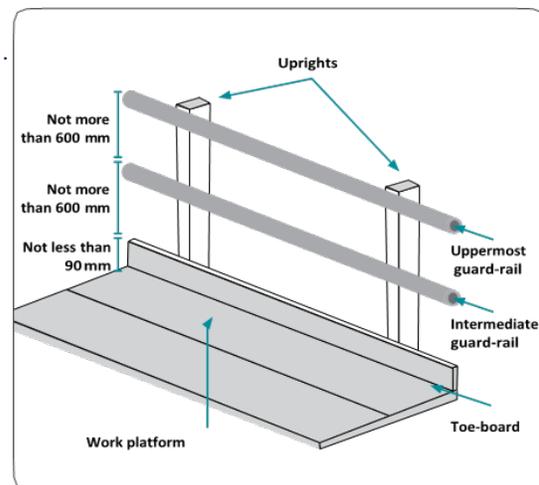


Figure 8 Dimensions of working platform

- (c) Edge protection must also be provided at any other edge at the workplace where a person could fall (see figures 5, 6 and 7). Scaffolding guardrails and toe boards dimensions requirements are shown in Figure 8
- (d) Provision of safety netting on the outside of the scaffold structure (see figure 5) , as well as toe boards for all platforms and walkways at height, also ensures that tools and equipment are not inadvertently dropped from height. Such safety precautions will have the potential to deflect such falling objects and ensure that the risk of objects falling from height and injuring passersby and other workers at the worksite will be reduced.

SHENA Inspectors will continue to undertake inspections and monitoring visits to workplaces, in particular worksites where construction activities are being conducted. If SHENA identifies any non-compliance to required safety measures, SHENA will not hesitate to take the appropriate enforcement actions as provided for under the Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009.

Further guidance on construction safety matters is available at the SHENA Website (www.shena.gov.bn) and should be referred to whilst planning and undertaking any construction related work activities. Stakeholders should peruse and familiarise themselves with the following guidance documents to further their understanding of the risks and hazards associated with worksites:

- i. **2021/IGN/04 - Guidance to Personal Protective Equipment**
- ii. **2020/IGN/01 - Guidelines for Safe Use of Scaffolding**
- iii. **2020/IGN/02 - Guidance to Work at Height**
- iv. **2020/IGN/03 - Guidance to Permit to Work**
- v. **2020/IGN/04 - Guidance to Risk Management**
- vi. **2019/IGN/02 - Guidance to Workplace Safety and Health in Construction Sites**

Should there be any questions concerning this guidance, please contact SHENA at +673 238 2000 or email info@shena.gov.bn SHENA would like to thank all stakeholders for their cooperation in ensuring Brunei Darussalam is a safe place to work and live.

END