



# Safety Reboot

## Temporary Works

### Discussion Aid



This discussion aid has been developed to assist the person facilitating the Safety Reboot discussion on Temporary Works. It provides pointers to get conversation going and is not a full explanation of all health and safety requirements related to this subject, and should not be relied on as such.

1. Who can give examples of construction work that could involve temporary works?  
Site hoarding, scaffolding, excavations, installation of safety netting, propping of structures etc.
2. So, what is the difference between temporary works and permanent works?  
Temporary works are the parts of a construction project that are needed to allow the permanent works i.e. buildings, roads, bridges etc to be built. Usually the temporary works are removed after use e.g. we take down the scaffolding, remove the acrow props etc.
3. What can be the health and safety consequences of poorly planned or poorly managed temporary works?  
A collapse resulting in serious injury or death.
4. Can anyone give an example where temporary works have gone wrong?  
Plenty of examples which could be referred to but preferably should be ones which attendees can relate to.
5. Can anyone organise temporary works?  
The person organising the temporary works needs to be aware of a number of problems that can occur during each stage.
6. Does anyone know the names of the two key roles who help co-ordinate and manage temporary works?  
Temporary works co-ordinator and temporary works supervisor.
7. What paperwork can be used to better plan and manage temporary works?  
Design calculations, drawings, permits to work which control when certain things can be done e.g. removal of acrow props.
8. If we were doing work which could make a structure unstable CDM tells us we should take all **practicable** measures where necessary to prevent danger to any person, to ensure that any new or existing structure does not collapse. Who knows what practicable means?  
Generally accepted as meaning if it can be done it should be done unlike the lower requirement of reasonably practicable which means you weigh up a number of factors including time, costs etc.
9. Can you take it upon yourself to remove measures that have been put in place to manage temporary works e.g. remove acrow props?  
No, measures put in place are there for a particular reason and you may not be aware of the bigger picture. You should not alter or remove such measures unless you have been authorised to do so.
10. What should you do if you have a concern about a temporary works issue?  
Do something about it. If you know who the site temporary works co-ordinator or supervisor is report it to them or alternatively to a member of management immediately.