

Follows NSL Incident Notification IN NSL-1.5.1-SM1-IN-0005

Title: Collapsed temporary scaffold

Review of what happened:

At Blyth converter site on 10th April, a gang of 4 Malin operatives (sub –contractor to [REDACTED]) were working on the roof of the Plant Room within the DC Hall (Pole 2). As the gang were pouring and screeding concrete to create the fire rated roof slab, one of the operatives heard a suspicious noise coming from the temporary scaffold. The gang made the decision to evacuate the roof. At this point it was noticed that some of the steel elements of the temporary scaffold had started to buckle. ABB were notified and the area was closed off for investigation.

The temporary scaffold had been installed to support the bearing weight of the roof until the works had finished. Prior to installation a full temporary works design for the scaffolding was carried out and approved by a qualified Temporary Works Designer appointed by McLaren.

Approximately 1 hour after the after the gang evacuated the roof the scaffold failed and the section of roof where the concrete had been poured collapsed. No one was injured.

The HSE have since visited site and are undertaking their own investigation

Collapsed Scaffold photo:



Key points from investigation:

- Investigation carried out by ABB
- Appointed temporary works personnel did not enact their roles effectively
- Deficiencies found in the design process to ensure adequate design changes are effectively communicated and independently verified as fit for purpose
- Any loading calculations need to be checked and re-checked as fit for purpose prior to any use of the structure
- Design diagrams to construct scaffolding not sufficiently clear and not communicated to scaffolders effectively
- Ineffective relationships on site drove poor communication, cooperation and coordination of temporary works activities

Key lessons learnt:

- Ensure any temporary work design process is clear and understood by all with suitably competent and experienced appointed persons
- Ensure all parties involved are suitably coordinated, with effective collaboration and communication between them
- Ensure an effective assurance process to verify final designs to be built are fit for purpose and built to the design before any work is undertaken
- Create an environment where all involved in the temporary works are enabled to question instructions and stop work if unsure