

Produced by the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and EPF, and supported by the Home Builders Federation.
IMPORTANT NOTE: Toolbox Talks are not intended to replace formal training but to supplement it.

TEMPORARY EDGE PROTECTION RISKS OF CROSS CONTAMINATION

What is the risk?

Manufacturers are concerned that if their systems are mixed, they might not perform when relied upon. Without knowing the performance characteristics, material properties and tolerances of each component, how can you ensure a “system” made up of a mixture of different manufacturers components will save a person’s life?

Manufacturers’ User Instructions

These are needed for a number of reasons:

- To create and provide operative training;
- To create and provide manufacturer training;
- As a reference during:
 - Installation;
 - Inspection;
 - Adjustment / Alteration;
 - Dismantling;
- To determine inspection levels.



Does a cross contaminated system have user instructions? If not, how can it achieve the points above?

What to do

Simply, don’t install or allow a cross-contaminated “system”.

If it is necessary, you should get all manufacturers whose components are used to create the “system” to agree to the intended use.

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations

The CDM Regs state that any person that amends a design or instructs another person to amend a design takes on design liability.

Ask yourself: Are you comfortable with taking on this risk and responsibility?

Examples of good practice...



A simple message:
Do NOT mix components from different systems

5 KEY POINTS

1. Do not mix components from different systems
2. Always use the manufacturers’ user instructions
3. Familiarise yourself with your legal obligations under CDM
4. Report any instances of cross contamination to the site manager
5. Only use complete systems tested to BS EN 13374

