

Care & Maintenance

To ensure safety and the maximum life of the scaffold board it must be checked regularly.

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It should be noted that cross cutting a graded board to a shorter length does not affect the structural integrity or grade of the board and it will still comply with BS 2482:2009; if the board has been either visually or machine graded it will have been graded along the full length. Any defects (unless outlined below) will be within the permitted allowance.

- End bands should be checked, made secure and replaced if necessary.
- If a board shows signs of being accidentally dropped or otherwise abused (e.g. run over) it should be discarded.
- Boards should be stored dry and have any concrete removed.
- All nails, screws, e.g. Hilti nails should be removed and the board checked for damage.
- Splits should be checked. Any split must not be deeper than 12mm in thickness. If deeper than this, they should be no more than 225mm long. Splits of less than 225mm may be repaired using nail plates. Boards with splits longer than this should be cut down. Splits running across the face are not permitted and the board should be cut down.
- Any cut should be superficial, i.e. no deeper than 2mm.
- Any board that has been notched should be cut down to remove the notch.
- Any board with signs of rot or decay should be discarded.
- Any boards stored for a period of time should be regularly checked for signs of decay, especially fungus and wet rot. Ideally, stored boards should have a regular flow of air. Boards should not be left 'close piled' for more than 3 months. If the anticipated storage is for longer, then the boards should be stored with 'sticks' in-between every layer.





Re-banding and Re-grading

When re-banding or nail plating takes place without using a qualified scaffold board grader, it is recommended that only one end band or pair of nail plates should be replaced (it is not recommended, under any circumstances, that a board should have both end bands or pairs of nail plates replaced). This ensures full traceability of the board as to its grade, manufacturer and support span. In these circumstances replacement bands or nail plates should carry no support identification or information confirming that the board has been re-banded as the board can then be identified as having been repaired. Any board with both end bands missing should be discarded or quarantined until such time that the board can be re-graded to BS 2482:2009.

When re-banding takes place and is carried out by a qualified scaffold board grader, both bands may be replaced. Re-grading shall be to BS 2482:2009 and the band should carry a date reference and the company's identification mark, license number or identification mark of the company's third party accreditation, support span and method of grading (M or V). The board should also be identified or branded as 'RE-GRADED'.

When a board has been re-graded in accordance with BS 2482:2009 and the original end bands have been left attached, the boards must be branded 'RE-GRADED' and in addition, should carry the full marking requirements of BS 2482:2009. i.e.

- a) the number and year of the British Standard, i.e. BS 2482:2009;
- b) the identification mark of the supplier;
- c) the letter M or V denoting machine or visual grading;
- d) the word 'support' followed by the target span in metres up to which the board may be supported (refer to Table B.1 in BS 2482:2009)
- e) where appropriate, the identification mark of a third party certification body.

A nail plate may be used in addition or as an alternative. These are fitted in pairs, top and bottom, in accordance with NASC Guidance Note TG7:10 Scaffold Board Nailplates.

