

SDL Pro Compliance TG20:26 vs NASC TG20:21

Technical, engineering and regulatory comparison

Overview

SDL Pro Compliance TG20:26 and **NASC TG20:21** are two scaffolding compliance systems designed to provide contractors with standardised scaffold configurations supported by structural engineering.

SDL Pro TG20:26 is developed by SDL Pro, a specialist scaffolding engineering company. Its configurations have been structurally assessed against applicable British and European Standards, analysed using SAP2000 and Eurocode methodologies, and subjected to Category 3 independent engineering checks.

NASC TG20:21 is an established UK scaffolding industry guidance system developed by the National Access & Scaffolding Confederation. It provides standardised scaffold configurations supported by structural engineering assessments and defined conditions of use.

Both systems seek to provide a technically justified approach to scaffolding compliance, although their scope, engineering documentation and industry recognition differ.

1. Technical comparison

Category	SDL Pro Compliance TG20:26	NASC TG20:21
Organisation	SDL Pro - specialist scaffolding engineering company	National Access & Scaffolding Confederation
System	TG20:26	TG20:21
Structural engineering	Engineered and structurally verified configurations	Engineered standard configurations
Design standards	Applicable British and European Standards	Applicable British and European Standards
Structural analysis	SAP2000	Engineering analysis methodology underlying TG20
Design methodology	Eurocodes and relevant scaffold standards	Relevant scaffold design standards and engineering methodology
Independent checking	Category 3 independent engineering checks	Engineering verification; specific check classification should be confirmed
Compliance sheets	SDL Pro engineered compliance sheets	NASC TG20 compliance sheets
Configuration library	SDL Pro-developed configurations	TG20-defined configurations
Technical limitations	Defined by SDL Pro engineering assessments	Defined by TG20 guidance and eGuide
Industry recognition	Independent system establishing market recognition	Established UK industry recognition
NASC approval required	No	Not applicable

2. Engineering verification

SDL Pro TG20:26

Uses structural modelling, Eurocode-based calculations and Category 3 independent checks to verify the structural adequacy of its configurations.

NASC TG20:21

Uses an established engineering framework to define permissible scaffold configurations, loading conditions and limitations.

A Category 3 independent check provides an additional level of design assurance through independent technical review. However, the presence of a CAT 3 check does not, by itself, establish that one system is superior to another.

The engineering performance of the two systems must be evaluated against their respective design assumptions, loads, configuration limits and verification records.

3. UK legal and regulatory position

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 do not mandate NASC TG20:21 as the only permissible route for scaffold design.

The HSE identifies two principal approaches:

1. Erection in accordance with a generally recognised standard configuration.
2. Structural design supported by suitable calculations undertaken by a competent person.

SDL Pro TG20:26 can support the second route through its verified engineering configurations and associated calculations. Recognition of TG20:26 as a generally recognised standard configuration is a separate matter and should not be assumed.

4. Industry positioning

SDL Pro TG20:26 provides an independently engineered approach to scaffold compliance, incorporating structural modelling, Eurocode design methodologies and Category 3 checking.

NASC TG20:21 provides an established industry framework with a recognised compliance-sheet system and extensive adoption across the UK scaffolding sector.

Both approaches can support safe, compliant scaffold construction when their technical conditions and regulatory obligations are satisfied.

Conclusion

SDL Pro Compliance TG20:26 represents an independently developed, structurally engineered scaffolding compliance system supported by British and European design standards, SAP2000 structural analysis, Eurocode methodologies and Category 3 independent checks.

NASC TG20:21 represents an established industry guidance system supported by engineered standard scaffold configurations.

The fundamental distinction is not that one system is engineered and the other is not. Both have engineering foundations. The distinction lies in their respective technical scope, validation procedures, documentation and industry recognition.

SDL Pro TG20:26 provides an alternative engineering-based route to demonstrating scaffold structural compliance, subject to the suitability and documented verification of each applicable configuration.