



**MISUSE OF  
ACCESS  
PLATFORM  
DECKING  
SYSTEMS**

# FASET Bulletin APD04 (Revision 1)

## Misuse of Access Platform Decking Systems

Misuse of Access Platform Decking systems is becoming more common as the popularity and easy access to the system increases. Systems should only be used for their intended purpose, in line with the manufacturers user instructions. Misuse of the system or its individual components can lead to failure or result in undetected damage resulting to failure during subsequent use.

Some typical examples of misuse are detailed below.

### Overloading

The load limitations of individual Platform Decking Systems detailed within Manufacturers User Information should be adhered to all times. Overloading has the potential to damage the system, or cause the system to fail with potential to cause injury.



### Point Loading

Point loading a Platform Decking System can lead to a failure at the point of misuse or during subsequent use if undetected damage is caused to the system components. The Manufacturer's information on maximum loadings should always be referred to.



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## Tampering

Access Platform Decking Systems are provided for the safety of operatives working on site, and the way they are installed and are supported are crucial to their stability and effectiveness.

Unauthorised alterations to the Access Platform Decking System or its supporting structure is likely to be a breach of Section 8 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Only competent and authorized operatives are permitted to make changes to an installed system, and once the changes have been made, a new Handover Certificate should be issued.



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### Unintended Use

Access Platform Decking panels are not intended to be used for supporting heavy loads by being stacked on top of each other. This misuse may lead to damage to the individual panels as well as creating an unstable structure causing them to topple over.



Misusing Access Platform Decking system panels for plant access can cause undetected damage which results in failure when next used correctly.



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