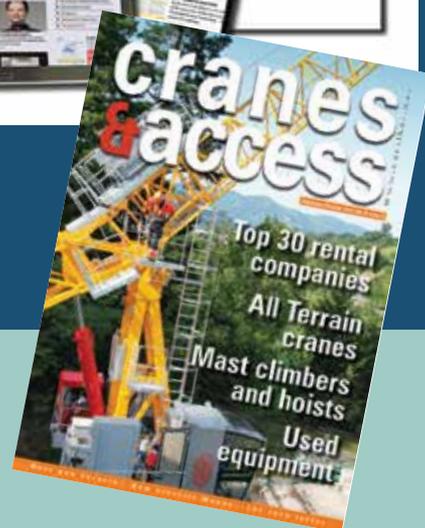


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# Tower standards level up

Towers for sale or rental in the UK are covered by one of two European standards EN 1004 or EN 1139-6 (or BS EN). Both of which have been updated.

## EN 1004

EN 1004 covers mobile access towers, defined as a freestanding, single bay structure with four legs and wheels, which has only one working platform at a time and can reach a maximum platform height of eight metres outdoors and 12 metres indoors. They are generally made of aluminium or GRP/fibreglass.

A revised European standard for these towers was published in November 2020, as EN 1004-1:2020 (published by BSI in the UK as BS EN 1004), replacing EN 1004:2004, which was withdrawn in November. The -1 means part 1.

Alongside that came a new second part to the standard, which covers the drafting and content of instruction manuals for these towers. This standard, also published in November, is EN 1004-2:2021 and the new part 2 replaces EN 1298.

## BS 1139-6

A tower that doesn't fit the definition of a mobile access tower is a prefabricated tower scaffold and these fall under the scope of the UK national standard BS 1139-6. They include towers with cantilevers, stepped towers, linked towers, towers with bridges and large decks. They also include any tower that has one or more of these conditions:

- towers on baseplates, instead of wheels
- towers tied into a supporting structure, and not freestanding
- towers above 8m outdoors or 12m indoors
- towers subject to wind loads greater than 0.1 kN/m<sup>2</sup>
- other towers designed specifically for a site

The revised standard for prefabricated tower scaffolds came into effect in January 2022, as BS 1139-6:2022. It replaces the previous version BS 1139-6:2014.

Learn more about tower standards and choosing safe equipment on PASMA's website: [pasma.co.uk/towers](https://pasma.co.uk/towers)

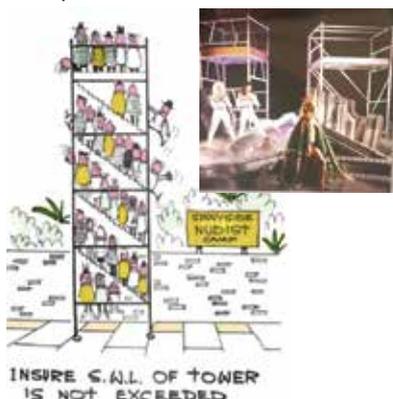
## PASMA training for 'I'm a Celeb' crew

Shortly before filming began for the UK TV show 'I'm a Celebrity Get me Out of Here' at Gwrych Castle, they attended a PASMA Towers for Users course. Instructor Simon Blackham took photos.



## Explore the history of towers

The PASMA online Archive has been revamped, it includes manuals, training materials, adverts, press articles and photos from the 1970s onwards: [www.pasma.co.uk/archive](https://www.pasma.co.uk/archive)



## PASMA training certificates go digital

Delegates who complete PASMA training will now receive a virtual certificate instead of a hard copy to confirm that they've passed their course. Virtual certificates are easier to share, impossible to lose and better for the environment.

Certificates can be downloaded from the PASMA website: [pasma.co.uk/](https://pasma.co.uk/) check-a-card All you need is your name and certificate number, which is printed on your card. This service is available for any current PASMA qualification and there's no limit to the number of times a certificate can be downloaded. PASMA will continue to issue plastic cards for now, but plan to launch a virtual version. To reduce the environmental impact in the meantime, it has switched from standard 30 percent recycled PVC to 50 percent.



## Safe equipment action plan

With the recent changes to tower standards, PASMA is recommending that businesses follow these four steps:

1. Review your company's purchasing policy to ensure it specifies that any new tower equipment must be certified to the latest version of EN 1004 or BS 1139-6.
2. Make sure any existing tower equipment is certified to the current or previous version of EN 1004 or BS 1139-6
3. Inspect any tower equipment you own to ensure that it's in good working condition. If a tower is certified to standard and in good condition, there's no need to replace it until it's worn out or damaged.
4. When the time comes to replace a tower or if you want a new one, simply follow your updated purchasing policy.

PASMA also recommends you check to see if the manufacturer has released an updated instruction manual for any towers that you own, following the release of the new standards.

## More unsafe work at height at Paddington

Two years ago, CCTV footage at Paddington Station, in London, captured a man falling from a tower. Late last year station staff noticed more unsafe work occurring on towers in the exact same location. Thankfully no one was injured this time. But a review of the CCTV footage highlighted over 40 health and safety breaches which could have easily resulted in another serious accident.

They included standing on unprotected platforms, moving towers without reducing the height, using aluminium towers below overhead powerlines, forgetting PPE, not setting up an exclusion zone and climbing the outside of a tower.

Network Rail shared a presentation on its Safety Central site highlighting the mistakes that were made. <https://safety.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-Paddington-unsafe-working-NR.pdf>



For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit: [www.accessindustryforum.org.uk](https://www.accessindustryforum.org.uk) and [www.nofallsfoundation.org](https://www.nofallsfoundation.org)