

Summary

BTC (Nederland) stands for 'Bouwterreincertificaat', which is an initiative of the Dutch Association of Foundation Contractors. It has been derived from the Working Platform Certificate, which was developed by the British FPS – Federation of Piling Specialists – in co-operation with the Health & Safety Executive in the UK. Before the implementation of the certificate one third of all dangerous occurrences reported by the FPS Membership were related to working platforms. Every dangerous occurrence and every 'near miss' involving a platform is a potential fatality. Therefore, working platforms must be designed, properly constructed, regularly inspected and maintained for the plant which will use them. The FPS Working Platform Certificate confirms that the working platform has been properly designed, constructed in the accordance with the design, and will be regularly inspected and adequately maintained to ensure the integrity of the platform. It requires the signature of the Principal Contractor, in his capacity as the Temporary Works Co-Ordinator and must be handed to the Piling Contractor before piling (or other work) commences on site.

The design of the working platform must take account of the bearing pressures of the plant which will use it and the ground conditions on which it will be constructed. It should be undertaken by a competent designer with appropriate geotechnical expertise.

A BRE Guide 'Working platforms for tracked plant: good practice guide to the design, installation, maintenance and repair of ground-supported working platforms' (IHS BRE Press, www.brebookshop.com) gives guidance for the design. In the Netherlands a similar guideline has been developed by SBRCURnet called 'Begaanbaarheid van bouwterreinen' (roughly translated as: Stability of Working Platforms), which exclusively is related to the deployment of foundation rigs for piling, drilling and other similar activities. The Health & Safety Authorities in the Netherlands reported in 2009 already that two third of all incidents with foundation rigs were related to the capacity of the surface.

The introduction of the certificate system seeks to contribute to the design and preparation of safe sites.