



**Temporary Works
forum**

Promoting best practice in
the construction industry.

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TWf INFORMATION SHEET No. 18

Edge protection and Demarcation: Types and their use

1.0 Introduction

Temporary edge protection and/or demarcation is 'temporary works' and requires a design in accordance with your project's temporary works procedures. This may be a 'standard design'. A design check may also be required.

Some common types of edge protection and/or demarcation - and the applications in which they could be considered for use - are illustrated. This information sheet is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive but indicative of what is available for use.

Any system should also be subject to regular inspection by a competent person(s).

When selecting edge protection and/or demarcation systems - and before their use - consult your Temporary Works Coordinator (TWC). If you are unsure about anything, ask!

2.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this information sheet the following definitions have been adopted:

demarcation system

set of components intended to prevent access to an area

edge protection system

set of components intended to protect people from falling to a lower level and to retain materials

1. Cone and line		DEMARCATION - VISIBLE BOUNDARY	
	Typical uses		
	People	●	Often used as a visible boundary to direct pedestrians.
	Vehicles and Plant	○	Sometimes used as a visible boundary for vehicles and plant.
<p>NOTE: Its suitability for use where there is a fall risk shall be assessed. The distance of the system from an edge should be adequate to ensure that a fall from height cannot occur.</p>			

2. Fencing		DEMARCATION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY	
	Typical uses		
	People	●	Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant	○	Sometimes used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.

3. Pedestrian barriers		DEMARCATION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY	
	Typical uses		
	People	●	Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant	○	Sometimes used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.
<p>NOTES: Its suitability for use where there is a fall risk shall be assessed. The distance of the system from an edge should be adequate to ensure that a fall from height cannot occur. They should not be used as edge protection to arrest a fall.</p>			

4. Tubular guardrail demarcation		DEMARCATIION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY	
	Typical uses		
	People	●	Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant	○	Sometimes used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.

NOTES:
Its suitability for use where there is a fall risk shall be assessed. The distance of the system from an edge should be adequate to ensure that a fall from height cannot occur. They should not be used as edge protection to arrest a fall.

5. Tubular guardrail edge protection		EDGE PROTECTION - COLLECTIVE FALL PREVENTION	
	Typical uses		
	People	●	Used to collectively prevent people from falling to a lower level and retain materials.
	Vehicles and Plant		Not designed to provide protection against impact from vehicles or plant.

NOTES:
Should be designed and tested in accordance with BS EN 13374: 2023. Advice is also available from the NASC, the EPF, FASET) and the ACR/).

6. Proprietary edge protection - Class A & B		EDGE PROTECTION - COLLECTIVE FALL PREVENTION	
	Typical uses		
	People	●	Used to collectively prevent people from falling to a lower level and retain materials.
	Vehicles and Plant		Not designed to provide protection against impact from vehicles or plant.

NOTE:
Should be designed and tested in accordance with BS EN 13374: 2023 and EPF Guidance (<https://epf-uk.org/industry-guidance/>).

7. Proprietary edge protection - Class C	EDGE PROTECTION - COLLECTIVE FALL PREVENTION		
	Typical uses		
	People		Used to collectively prevent people from falling to a lower level and retain materials.
	Vehicles and Plant		Not designed to provide protection against impact from vehicles or plant.
NOTE: Should be designed and tested in accordance with BS EN 13374: 2023.			

8. Temporary panel fencing	DEMARCATIION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY		
	Typical uses		
	People		Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant		Sometimes used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.
NOTES: May need to be double-clipped, buttressed, anchored and/or braced for stability. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions. See TWf Guide, www.twforum.org.uk (work in progress).			

9. Soil / sand bund	DEMARCATIION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY		
	Typical uses		
	People		Not designed to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point or directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant		Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.
NOTES: The height of the bund should be assessed by taking into account the height of the largest tyre, the vehicle/plant being used in the area and its speed. See L118 (HSE), www.hse.gov.uk			

10. Concrete barrier (TCVB)		DEMARCATION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY	
	Typical uses		
	People		Not designed to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point or directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant	●	Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.
<p>NOTE: See BS EN 1317-2:2010, Road restraint systems. Performance classes, impact test acceptance criteria and test methods for safety barriers including vehicle parapets.</p>			

11. Water-filled barriers		DEMARCATION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY	
	Typical uses		
	People		Not designed to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point or directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant	●	Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.
<p>NOTE: These are sometimes referred to as 'red and whites'.</p>			

12. Baulk timbers		DEMARCATION - VISIBLE & PHYSICAL BOUNDARY	
	Typical uses		
	People	○	Sometimes used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs people.
	Vehicles and Plant	●	Often used to provide a visible and physical boundary that limits access beyond a point and directs vehicles and plant.



3.0 Further reading

HSG33, Health and safety in roof work (HSE),
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg33.htm>

HSG136, A guide to workplace transport safety (HSE),
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg136.htm>

HSG150, Health and safety in construction (HSE),
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg150.htm>

L118, Health and safety at quarries. The Quarries Regulations 1999. Approved Code of Practice (HSE), <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l118.htm>

4.0 Useful websites

ACR (<https://www.the-acr.org/>)

EPF (<https://epf-uk.org/>)

FASET (<https://www.faset.org.uk/>)

NASC (<https://nasc.org.uk/>)

TWf (<https://twforum.org.uk>)

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