



Temporary Works  
forum (NZ)

Promoting best practice in  
the construction industry.

(PILING PLATFORMS)

# WORKING PLATFORMS

**A working platform assessment is always required to operate heavy machinery on site. A safe, stable and free draining platform should be at least 300mm thick and made of suitable and well compacted granular material. Timber swamp mats, concrete slabs or soil stabilisation techniques can be used to achieve the required bearing capacity to the ground conditions encountered and verified on site.**

## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- Weak ground – where the ground is a soft clay/silts, loose sands, a high water table, reclaimed ground of unknown compaction, or composed of organic soils.
- Where no platform has been provided for piling operations.
- Where trenches cut into the platform have not been adequately backfilled and compacted.
- Where pile voids have not been adequately backfilled.
- Where late changes to the type or use of plant will affect design loadings.
- Where platform edges have not been clearly marked.
- Where the track edge is  $<2H$  from the base of the berm/excavation.
- Where the platform is not free draining and water is allowed to pool on the surface.
- Where the location and depth of services/manholes have not been located, protected or diverted as required.
- Where a compacted granular platform of less than 300mm is provided.

### What is the risk?

Ground failure could lead to rotation of the plant, machinery or structure and collapse onto the workplace.

### Why could that happen?

The Platform or existing ground conditions have not been assessed and managed by a competent person for all load cases applied during the full lifetime of the platform.

### How do I know it is safe?

All platforms will need to be assessed by a competent person and constructed in accordance with a controlled specification and/or drawing. Piling Platforms must be supported by a Working Platform Certificate provided by the Contractor responsible for the Platform.

### Where can I find good practice?

- Working Platforms for tracked plant: Good Practice Guide (BRE470)

### Who do I speak to if I have any concerns?

You must raise your query with the Temporary Works Co-ordinator for the Project. If this person is not immediately available please discuss your concerns with the Site Manager.