

LATEST CHANGES TO EN 1004 STANDARD FOR MOBILE TOWERS

Information for customers

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Information on changes to standard

Standards are recognised rules of engineering and contain specifications for manufacturing and testing products. European standard EN 1004 relates to mobile access and working towers. A new version will come into force on February 1st 2021. After an implementation period lasting until 30.11.2021, manufacturers may only bring into circulation mobile towers which comply with the new version and bear notification of compliance to the new standard.

1. Extended validity of the standard

Whereas the previous version of EN 1004 only covered mobile towers and scaffolds from a standing height of 2.5 metres upwards, the new version has no restriction on minimum standing height. Smaller mobile scaffolds are also included in the standard.

EN 1004 covers mobile towers and mobile scaffolds from a standing height of 0 meters.

2. Safe assembly, conversion and dismantling

According to the new version of EN 1004, mobile towers must be designed so that they do not require the use of personal fall protection equipment during assembly, conversion or dismantling. This means that side protection must be continuously ensured in every phase of assembly or dismantling. Guard rails and bracings for the next level must therefore be installable using one of the following methods:

- from ground level
- from the platform below
- through the platform trapdoor (3-T method)

Safe assembly, conversion and dismantling with continuous side protection must be ensured.





3. Maximum height between platforms

To reduce the risk of falling during assembly, dismantling and access to the mobile tower, the height between two platforms must be maximum 2.25 metres in future. The lowest platform may have a maximum height of 2.40 metres.

Platform distance max. 2.25 metres.

First platform at max. height of 3.40 metres.

4. Additional structural design requirements

To increase the stability of mobile towers and mobile scaffolds, EN 1004 stipulates new regulations for calculating the structural design. This may result in changes to the ballasting requirements of manufacturers.

Changes to the manufacturer's ballasting requirements for mobile towers must be complied with for their use.

The HYMER product portfolio already offers long tried and tested solutions with a safety structure in accordance with the new version of EN 1004.

Questions and answers on changed to the standard

How will the change to the standard affect retailers?

After the standard comes into force, mobile towers built to the old standard are not automatically unsafe. For this reason, they will still be legally compliant after the change to the standard. Retailers may continue to sell or rent out mobile scaffolds built to the old standard held in stock or on the inventory.

How will the change to the standard affect users?

There is no obligation for private or professional users to replace or retrofit existing mobile towers for new ones. However, professional users are still obliged to evaluate their work equipment in a risk analysis for their suitability for the intended purposes at regular intervals and to assess their safety condition. When purchasing new mobile towers, we recommend professional users to check the conformity of the purchased equipment with the new version of EN 1004.

Can existing mobile scaffolds be retrofitted and will they then conform to the new standard?

As a rule, mobile towers are built from a specific number of individual elements (e.g. frame units, bracings, platforms, etc.) depending on the assembly combination selected and these elements are obtainable separately. A mobile tower built to the old standard can be easily retrofitted to comply to the new standard by purchasing additional individual elements manufactured to the new manufacturer's specifications.

How can one identify that a mobile scaffold is manufactured to the latest version of the standard?

The manufacturer is obliged to declare the standard to which the mobile tower was manufactured. This must be stated in the enclosed instruction and operation manual and appear on stickers which are usually affixed to the platforms of the mobile tower. If the product sticker bears no date of issue of the standard, the mobile scaffold must always comply with the latest version of the standard.

When the implementation period expires, are manufacturers permitted to bring mobile scaffolds into circulation if they do not comply with the new EN 1004?

Basically, it is permitted to bring products into circulation if they do not comply with an existing standard. However, the manufacturer is responsible for the safety of these products and must guarantee that there is no risk to users.