

## Technical Guidance Bulletin 04

# Waste Removal

The nature of metal decking scrap is sharp with cut metal burs along the edges and off cuts are often in to sharp points.

Thought must always be given as to how the scrap will be removed form level once the decking has been completed. As a decking industry we do not undertake lifting operations as this falls outside of the decking and stud welding skill sets and experience. Scrap that is usually associated with metal decking:

- Decking pack straps
- Off cuts of decking
- Trim and flashing off cuts
- Stud barrels



In line with CDM 2015 regulations though must be given at the design stage of the project to plan how scrap will be managed on site. Thought must be given on how the above items will be removed from the building.

Using the hierarchy of controls and the skill sets that are set out by the HSE there are the following options when managing scrap:

## Suitable Methods

### Eliminate – Off site cutting

This involves all of the decking sheets that are cut on an angle to have these cuts made away form the contract site thus reducing the amount of off cuts produced on site. This option will vastly reduce the amount of scrap from site however will not eliminate it all. There will still be the requirements for trim, flashings and column cut outs etc to be left dealt with on site. It is also expensive to undertake due to the additional works incurred during the manufacturing process.

### Substitution

The UKMDA have recognised the following suitable means of dealing with scrap using engineering controls.

### **Lifting of a skip to level**

Suitable certified lifting skips or skips with lifting cradles provide the safest means of clearing waste from each level. Provision should be made for plant to lift these skips to and from the working level. (Please note that lifting plant must be supplied by others with experience)

### **Hoist**

Scrap can be collected in a suitable materials hoist and lowered to the ground at the end of each shift.

### **Skip lifted to edge protection**

If neither of the above options are practicable then a skip / container can be lifted up to the outer perimeter of the hand rail where scrap can be placed in to the skip / container form inside of the hand rails. (Please note that lifting plant must be supplied by others with experience).



### **Palletising stacking scrap**

If none of the above are suitable the scrap should be neatly bundled or placed on a pallet near the perimeter of the building to be lifted down by follow on trades when lifting their materials to level. In all instances when scrap is left on the level it must be strapped back to the laid decking so it cannot be blown form the building.



## **Unsuitable methods**

### **Manually carrying scrap**

Under no circumstances should scrap ever be manually handled down stairs or ladders. This creates a vastly increased risk of deep cuts and lacerations to hands arms, legs and possibly face. This method is un acceptable on all sites.

### **Rubble shoots**

Rubble shoots are designed for rubble, off cuts of sharp and long pieces of scrap have the potential of snagging and blocking rubble shoots. This method is not acceptable for the use in conjunction with metal decking.

**Note:** whenever a pack of decking has been split open or scrap is left on the level. This must always be strapped and fixed to the completed decking without exception. Failure to do this may result in materials being blown form the building.

Should none of the above methods be suitable the removal of scrap must be planned and risk assessed. With a safe system of work put in place that all parties involved are happy with and complies with all HSE guidelines and current legislations.