



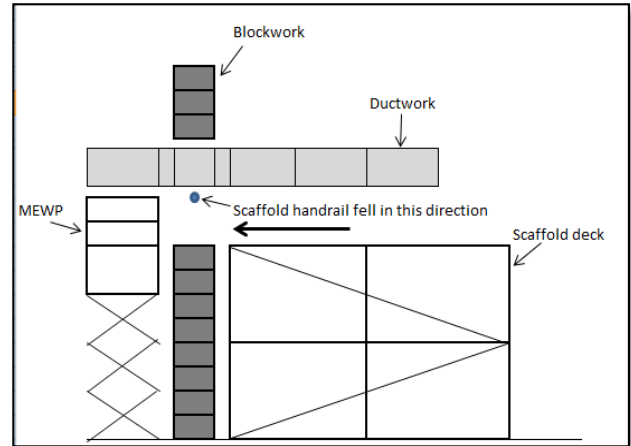
## ALERT

### Scaffold Handrail Failure Incident

#### What Happened:

Ductwork was being installed within a builders work gap, in a blockwork wall. Operatives were working on either side of the wall (MEWP one side / scaffold deck the other) to install the ductwork.

A single handrail had previously been erected between the blockwork opening, which was erected to prevent falls into the opening from the MEWP side. The handrail provided protection in one direction but not the other (scaffold deck outwards) due to its configuration.



*Diagram of incident*

As the ductwork was being installed through the gap the operative on the scaffold deck side of the wall leant on the handrail for support and the handrail gave way. The individual was physically stopped from falling by his colleague in the MEWP directly in front of him.

#### Future Considerations:

- All adaption's to scaffolding handrails and decks should take into account previous uses to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- Competent scaffold inspectors should be used to keep a consistent review ongoing.