



Temporary Works
forum (NZ)

Promoting best practice in
the construction industry.

(FENCES AND GATES)

HOARDINGS

Early works would usually include taking control of the site and securing it through the use of Hoardings, Fences and Gates. Hoardings are generally impermeable and made from timber and secured to concrete blocks or embedded into the ground, where fences are open and are often made from wire.

What to look out for:

- Gates add extra tributary area to adjacent foundations and posts.
- Method at opening and closing gates eg: roller gates on a slope
- Where posts are embedded less than 500mm into weak ground.
- Where ballast is less than 1000kg per 2m run of wall.
- Where timber posts are greater than 3m apart.
- Changes to hoardings after installation (e.g. signs).
- Where concrete ballast is placed on a concrete slab (sliding issue).
- Where the hoarding moves noticeably from a manual push/pull test.
- Where open wire fences have been covered in sheeting or signage.

What is the risk?

Hoardings usually have a direct interface with the public and can collapse under loading from either crowd pressures or wind loading if not assessed by a competent person.

Why could that happen?

If the hoarding has not been designed for wind or crowd loading, the posts could break, embedded posts could fail the ground, or weighted supports could rotate or slide causing crushing injuries to workplace or public on collapse.

How do I know it is safe?

All hoardings will need to be assessed by a competent person and used in accordance with a controlled specification and/or drawing. Hoardings should be supported by the manufacturer's specification, or a Design Check Certificate provided by the Contractor responsible for the site.

Where can I find good guidance?

- Hoardings: A guide to good practice (TWf 2012:01, Aug2020)

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.