

## Trailer Access Platforms

The task of loading and unloading of steelwork requires an operative to climb onto the trailers to manoeuvre the steelwork into place. With the height of the steelwork on the trailer being as much as 3.3m above the floor, this poses a significant risk to the person loading/unloading materials. This hazard had to be addressed to comply with the HSE "Working at Height Regulations 2005".



A set of retractable platforms were developed by Peers Designers to provide access to the trailers on 3 sides at the same level as the trailer bed, whilst the materials are being loaded/unloaded. Various ideas were looked at but these were too heavy to be moved by hand or generally impractical for the available space. Two sets of three platforms were commissioned at a cost of £9000 per set. One for the unloading of the steel and one for the loading of finished fabricated items (see above).

### Key Points

1. The 14m long platforms that run the length of the trailers are on heavy-duty castors, this allows one person to move the platforms in and out with a force of 0.2kN (in line with HSE requirements). The end platforms are fixed to the floor to eliminate the risk of them being knocked over by reversing lorries.
2. The platforms act as safety barriers in the event of a person falling from the steel.
3. The Platforms provide a stable, clean and clear area to work from.
4. The platforms were fabricated from lightweight, thin wall box section with a mid span support to help reduce the self-weight. This allows the platforms to be easily moved by hand.
5. The Castors were locked in position to prevent longitudinal movement whilst foot operated clamp brakes prevent transverse movement.

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