



Temporary Works Categories

The level of checking required for temporary works designs is clearly outlined in BS 5975.

Under this standard, temporary works checks are classified into four categories—CAT 0 to CAT 3—based on the complexity and scope of the design. The appropriate category determines both the extent of the check and the qualifications and independence required of the checker.

As the complexity of a project increases, so does the level of scrutiny, along with the need for greater organisational separation between the designer and the checker.

Temporary works designs should be reviewed for:

- Design concept
- Structural strength and adequacy (including foundations and lateral stability)
- Compliance with the design brief

CAT 0 Check

- This category applies only to standard, proven solutions and does not cover original or bespoke designs.
- Checker: A different member of the site or design team may perform the check.

CAT 1 Check

- This category applies to relatively simple designs, such as formwork, brickwork, falsework, needling, and propping. A formal design must be produced, and the checker is required to review the design and associated calculations, confirming agreement by signing off the check.
- Checker: A separate member of the design team may carry out the check.

CAT 2 Check

- This level is intended for designs that are more complex or involved than those appropriate for a CAT 1 check.
- It typically includes designs that require interpretation of loading conditions or ground information.
- The checker receives the design brief, methodology, and drawings—but not the original calculations. They perform independent calculations, resulting in two separate sets of design calculations.
- Checker: A person not involved in the original design, ideally from a different office.

CAT 3 Check

- This is the highest level of design check and is required for novel analysis methods or where significant engineering judgement is involved.
- It applies to complex or innovative designs, particularly those involving intricate construction sequences or the movement and assembly of temporary or permanent works.
- As with CAT 2 checks, the checker is provided with the design brief, methodology, and drawings—but not the original calculations. Independent calculations are carried out by the checker, resulting in two separate sets of calculations.
- Checker: Must be from an organisation entirely independent of the original designer.