

21. Temporary Structures



temporary structures

Many events will require some form of structure, whether it be a marquee, stage or lighting. Collectively these are known in the event industry as temporary demountable structures (tds).

These structures will normally be supplied by a contractor.

It is important that event organisers identify what they require in terms of structures at an early stage as the feasibility of the venue and logistics of the site may dictate what is achievable. Those performing at events may also have specific requirements.

Given this information contractors will be able to advise on what is achievable within the constraints of the venue, budgets and timescales.

It is important at this stage that the final specifications are fully understood and written down to avoid problems at a later stage which could lead to last minute modifications that can cause safety problems.

Stability

To ensure the stability of a structure during erection and use, account will need to be taken of a number of factors such as its location, prevailing winds, its orientation and the load bearing capacity of the ground or floor. Consideration also needs to be given to issues such as the susceptibility of the site to flooding which could undermine the structure; the risks from overhead or underground power cables; and the accessibility for bringing the structure onto the site.

Wind and Snow

Wind can be a major factor affecting the stability of structures and there are calculations for managing this which a contractor should take into account. However, organisers need to bear in mind that any attachments they make to structures – such as signage or advertising banners – could affect this and make a structure less stable.

Before attaching anything to a structure, always consult the contractor who has supplied it.

The affects of snow on the structure should also be considered in winter (snow loading).

Regulations

The supply and erection/dismantling of structures is covered by a number of regulations and event organisers should ensure that the contractors they use comply with these. The key regulations are:

- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM).
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998
- Work At Height Regulations 2005
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

It is good practice for organisers to make compliance with these regulation part of their contract with the supplier.