

**Context:**

RMIT is an active university with high pedestrian traffic and public access. Scaffolds built on campus present significant risks to students, staff, and visitors if exclusion zones are not established and maintained.

Hazard:**Why This Matters**

Unauthorised access to scaffolding creates a serious risk of:

- Falls from height
- Falling objects striking workers or the public
- Scaffold instability due to interference or misuse

Under **Part 1 of the Scaffolding Industry Standard (Dec 2024)**, scaffolds are classified as **plant**, and duty holders must ensure they are **safe and do not expose unauthorised persons to risk**, including members of the public.

The industry standard requires that:

- **Exclusion zones are established** where scaffolding presents a risk to others
- Controls are **planned and installed before work starts**
- **Unauthorised access is prevented**, so far as reasonably practicable
- Public protection controls are **maintained and inspected**

Actions Required:

All contractors, scaffolders and supervisors must ensure:

1.  Physical exclusion zones (fencing, barriers or hoarding) are installed at scaffold bases
2.  Warning signage is clearly displayed ("*No Entry – No Unauthorised Access*")
3.  Scaffold access points are secured when unattended
4.  Public exposure risks are assessed before scaffold handover
5.  Exclusion controls are checked during scaffold inspections

Failure to establish and maintain exclusion zones is a breach of industry standards and OHS legislation. Protect the RMIT community – exclusion zones are mandatory for safe scaffolding operations in public spaces.

Comments:

Reference: WorkSafe Victoria Scaffolding Industry Standard Dec 2024