OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

# Signed off yesterday, failed today: temporary seating on show day

A temporary grandstand gave way at a beach concert in Queensland a day after it was signed off. What UK guidance expects, and the checks to make on show day before the public sit down

Correct as of 9 November 2026

SUMMARY

# A sign off is where show day checks begin.

**22** treated after a stand gave way [4]



OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

# The facts, as reported

**22**

treated after a stand gave way [4]

**4**

taken to hospital [3][4]

**1 day**

after an engineer's sign off [1]

# What was reported

## COOLANGATTA, 1 NOVEMBER 2026

- Stand gave way mid show [1][2]
- 22 treated, 4 to hospital [4]
- Signed off the day before [1]

## EARLIER CASES

- 2004: crowd jumped, seating moved [11]
- 2016: platform dropped [8]
- Corrosion, soft ground, wind [8]



# The full stand

Watch the stand, not the show



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# Scope of this Insight

| WHAT IT COVERS | WHAT IT DOES NOT |
| --- | --- |
| Temporary seating at events | The cause of any collapse |
| Show day checks and the stop | Structural design |
| The first ten minutes | Legal advice |

03

# What UK guidance says

| DUTY AND CONTROL | CHECKS |
| --- | --- |
| Organiser is the CDM client [15] | Independent erection check [11] |
| Clarity on who is in control [15] | Signed handover report [22] |
| Councils enforce, HSE the build [13] | Sign off is more than paperwork [11] |



# The walk

Before the public sit down



OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

# Paperwork before doors

| FOR EACH STAND | AND |
| --- | --- |
| Design and limits [17] | Handover report [22] |
| Competence [18] | Construction phase plan [14] |
| Independent check [11] | Show day record [8] |

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# Who owns what

| ROLES | ON THE DAY |
| --- | --- |
| Organiser: the client [15] | Stand supervisor watches |
| Designer: the limits [17] | Stewards keep gangways clear |
| Supplier: build and handover [11] | Event control decides |

# From the handover to a full stand

**1** Handover checked

**2** Stand walked

**3** Doors opened

**4** Stand watched

**5** Close if in doubt

OTAS guidance, drawing on HSE research [11] and IStructE guidance [17][18].



# The feet

Plates, pads and ground



OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

# Signs a temporary stand needs checking now

OTAS guidance, drawn from the reports, WHSQ and HSE.

01 **Movement**

02 **Feet and ground**

03 **Missing parts**

04 **Changed since sign off**

05 **Over full**

08

# Close the stand triggers

| THE STRUCTURE | PEOPLE AND WEATHER |
| --- | --- |
| Section moves [11] | Wind beyond limits [18] |
| Plate, pad or ground moved [8] | Crowd jumping [11] |
| Parts missing [8] | Anyone hurt or trapped |

# Five stages, from the order to the close down



**STAGE 1**

## Order

Design, limits, competence

**STAGE 2**

## Build

Control and changes

**STAGE 3**

## Hand over

Signed report, checked

**STAGE 4**

## Show day

Walk it before doors

**STAGE 5**

## In use

Watch it, stop if in doubt

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.



# The gangway

Kept clear while full



OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

# What to do at each level

## Operational

Walk it before doors

Keep gangways clear

Call in the signs

## Tactical

Check the handover

Brief the signs

Name the watcher

## Strategic

Act as the client

Get limits in writing

Name who reopens

11

# Readiness

| BEFORE DOORS | DURING AND AFTER |
| --- | --- |
| Independent check done | Watch the stand |
| Handover read | Watch the weather |
| Show day walk signed | Check before the next show |
| Close call tested | |

“

# The signing off procedure is more than a paperwork exercise.

HSE research on temporary demountable structures [11]

# Where the facts come from

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **7NEWS, injuries after grandstand collapses during a show in Queensland, 1 November 2026** | 7news.com.au |
| 2 | **Brisbane Times, grandstand collapses at a Queensland music festival, 1 November 2026** | brisbanetimes.com.au |
| 3 | **Nine, grandstand collapses at a Queensland music festival, 1 November 2026** | nine.com.au |
| 4 | **Rolling Stone Australia, dozens injured after grandstand collapse, 2 November 2026** | au.rollingstone.com |
| 5 | **ABC News, Queensland local news briefing, 2 November 2026** | abc.net.au |
| 6 | **Pollstar, investigations begin over a Queensland grandstand collapse, 3 November 2026** | news.pollstar.com |
| 7 | **Australasian Leisure Management, investigations launched after grandstand collapse in Queensland, 1 November 2026** | ausleisure.com.au |

# Where the facts come from

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, safety alert, grandstand collapse, 2016, updated 2018 | worksafe.qld.gov.au |
| 9 | BBC News, witness saw terrifying collapse, Lincolnshire, August 2004 | news.bbc.co.uk |
| 10 | New Civil Engineer, collapsed stand could have slipped off blocks, 9 September 2004 | newcivilengineer.com |
| 11 | HSE research, identification of safety good practice in the construction and deconstruction of temporary demountable structures | hse.gov.uk |
| 12 | HSE, event safety, temporary demountable structures | hse.gov.uk |
| 13 | HSE, event safety, frequently asked questions | hse.gov.uk |
| 14 | HSE, how the CDM Regulations are applied and administered in the entertainment industry | hse.gov.uk |

# Where the facts come from

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 15 | **HSE, CDM Regulations, roles and duties in the entertainment industry** | hse.gov.uk |
| 16 | **The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015** | legislation.gov.uk |
| 17 | **The Institution of Structural Engineers, Temporary demountable structures: guidance on procurement, design and use, fourth edition** | istructe.org |
| 18 | **The Institution of Structural Engineers, procurement and use of demountable structures** | istructe.org |
| 19 | **Sports Grounds Safety Authority, demountable structures** | sgsa.org.uk |
| 20 | **Sports Grounds Safety Authority, Annex D, demountable stand checklist** | sgsa.org.uk |
| 21 | **Sports Grounds Safety Authority, Guide to Safety Certification, December 2024** | sgsa.org.uk |

# Where the facts come from

**22** **The Purple Guide, temporary demountable structures** thepurpleguide.co.uk

**23** **Hastings Borough Council, event planning, temporary structures** hastings.gov.uk

**24** **HSE, event safety, put crowd controls in place** hse.gov.uk

Web sources opened 9 November 2026 and labelled with their publisher.

OVER TO YOU

# If one section of your stand moved during the show tonight, would anyone be watching it, and could they stop the show?

If you need support with planning temporary seating at your event, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS Live Ltd.

OTAS LIVE