

Suspended Scaffolds

Safety Meeting Packet

Protect Your Workforce



Suspended (suspension) scaffolds consist of one or more platforms suspended by ropes or other non-rigid means from an overhead structure.

Employers should be aware of the types of suspended scaffolds available and the requirements and recommendations provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to ensure that the scaffold is being used properly.

General Requirements

Some OSHA requirements apply to all types of suspended scaffold. OSHA requires that a 'competent person', defined as a person capable of identifying current and predictable hazards and authorized to act to eliminate them, perform certain tasks related to scaffolds. He or she must evaluate all direct connections prior to use to confirm that the surfaces can withstand the load.



The competent person must also inspect the ropes used prior to each work shift and after an occurrence that could impact the integrity of the rope to determine if there are any defects. The rope must be replaced if there is/are:

- Physical damage that impairs the function and strength
- Kinks that might impair tracking or wrapping
- Six randomly distributed broken wires in one rope lay
- Three broken wires within one strand in one rope lay
- Abrasion, corrosion, scrubbing, flattening, or peening that causes loss of more than 1/3 the original diameter
- Heat damage from a torch or from electrical wire contact
- Evidence that the secondary brake engaged a suspension rope

If a worker is more than 10 feet above a lower level, a guardrail, personal fall arrest system, or both must be used to protect the worker from falling.

When counterweights are used to balance adjustable suspension scaffolds, they must resist at least four times the tipping moment of the scaffold operating at the rated load of the hoist or one and one-half times the tipping moment of the scaffold at the stall load, whichever is greater.

When directly accessing the scaffolding, the surface must be no more than 24 inches above or 14 inches horizontally from the surface. Ladders, ramps, or similar items must be utilized if scaffold platforms are more than 24 inches above or below an access point.

When hoists are used, the suspension ropes must be long enough to lower the scaffold to the level below without the rope end passing through the hoist, unless the rope end has been configured to prevent it from passing through the hoist.

Types

Suspended scaffolds are broken down into several types, based on their construction. Each type has its own set of OSHA requirements for installation and use.

Two-Point (Swing Stage)

Two-point scaffolds are hung by ropes or cables that are connected to each end of the platform and can be adjusted to the desired work level. Two-point scaffolds must be supported by tieback to the structure and anchorage by either counterweight or direct connection to the structure.

Single-Point Adjustable

A single-point adjustable scaffold is like the two-point scaffold, but uses only one rope or cable from an overhead support. If two single-point scaffolds are connected to form a two-point system, the scaffold must comply with the two-point scaffolding requirements.

Multi-Point Adjustable

A multi-point adjustable scaffold consists of platform(s) suspended by more than two ropes and can be raised and lowered. If two or more scaffolds are used, they may not be bridged unless designed to do so. If they are not bridged, workers may only pass from one platform to the other if they are at the same level and abutting.

Multi-Level

Multi-level scaffolds can be either a two-point or multi-point scaffold with multiple platforms at different levels that rest on common stirrups. This type of scaffold must have additional independent support lines that are equal to the number of points supported, equal in strength to the suspension ropes, and rigged to support the scaffold if the suspension ropes fail.

Cantenary

Cantenary scaffolds consist of a platform supported by two horizontal parallel ropes that are attached to structural members of another structure. This type of scaffold may not consist of more than two platforms and must only have one platform between consecutive vertical support lines.

Interior Hung

Interior hung refers to a platform suspended from a ceiling or roof by fixed-length support ropes or cables. The roof structure must be inspected for strength prior to installing the scaffold.

Float (Ship)

Float scaffold is used to describe a braced platform on two parallel bearers and hung by ropes of a fixed length. There must be at least two bearers on the platform that extend at least six inches beyond the platform on both ends.

Needle Beam

A needle beam scaffold consists of a platform suspended from needle beams that are usually attached on one end to a permanent structural member. The connection to the structural member shall be configured to prevent the needle beam from rolling or becoming displaced.

Non-Mandatory Guidelines

OSHA provides non-mandatory guidelines for scaffolds, separated by type. The guidelines include recommendations on the type and dimension of materials used to construct scaffolds, spacing and distances, and recommended maximum intended load. Although not required, they can be useful when selecting the best scaffold for the job. The non-mandatory guidelines can be found in 29 CFR, Subpart L, Appendix A.

For additional information, please review the following OSHA Standard:

- 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L - Scaffolds
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Suspended Scaffolds Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name _____
 Department / Division _____
 Meeting Date & Time _____ AM PM
 Meeting Location _____
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting _____

Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Internal Procedures Reviewed:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
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(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees not present: _____

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer:

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.
