Proper Scaffold Use

Safety Meeting Packet

A significant number of accidents and fatalities in the construction industry are due to scaffold-related incidents. As a result, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that employers adhere to strict standards regarding scaffolding use. Employers must train all employees that may use scaffolds on the hazards and safety measures necessary to limit accidents and injuries.

Common Scaffold Hazards

- Falls due to a lack of fall protection
- Scaffolding collapse from instability or overloading
- Struck by falling objects
- Electrocution by overhead power lines

Scaffold Users

There are three main types of user that work with scaffolds:

Erectors/Dismantlers

Erectors and dismantlers are workers who assemble and disassemble scaffolding. OSHA requires that these users be trained by a "competent person". Please review 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L for additional information regarding requirements and duties of a "competent person."

Regular Users

Individuals performing work supported by scaffolding are considered regular users. OSHA requires that regular users be training by a "qualified person".

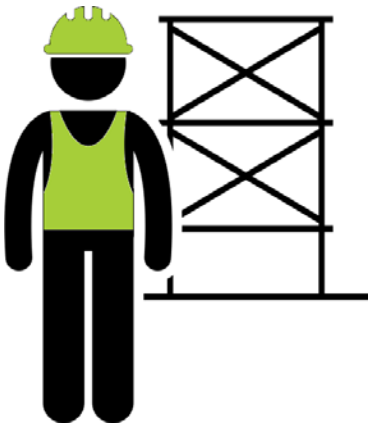
Please review 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L for additional information regarding requirements and duties of a "qualified person."

Designers

These individuals are qualified to design scaffolds and must be registered professional engineers. Please review the entire 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L for additional information about important tasks handled by these workers.

Capacity

Scaffolds and their components must support their own weight and at least four times the maximum intended load without failure. They must not be loaded more than their maximum intended loads or rated capacities, whichever is less. Lumber must have a load capacity of at least 1,500 pounds per square inch when used as load carrying timber. Review 29 CFR 1926.451(a) for additional information.



Platform Construction

Platforms must be planked and decked with less than a 1-inch gap between the platform and uprights. When side brackets or odd-shaped structures create a wider opening, the gap may not exceed 9½ inches. Platforms and walkways must be at least 18 inches wide and must not deflect more than 1/60 of the span when loaded.

Please see 29 CFR 1926.451 for additional information and Appendix A of 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L for tables with maximum permissible spans, rated load capacity, and nominal thickness.

Scaffold Categories

There are two main categories of scaffold structures: supported and suspended. Most scaffolds fall within these two categories, although scissor lifts or aerial lifts are not classified as either type.

Supported Scaffolds

Supported scaffolds are platforms that are supported by some form of rigid support. The most common support systems are made up of legs, outrigger beams, brackets, poles, uprights, posts, or frames. The structural members must be plumb and braced to prevent swaying and displacement. Please see 29 CFR 1926.451-452 for additional information.

Suspended Scaffolds

Suspended scaffolds include a series of platforms suspended from an overhead structure by ropes or other non-rigid means. Suspension scaffolds are required to be tied or otherwise secured to prevent them from swaying. Counterweights must be secured to the outrigger beams via mechanical means. Please see 29 CFR 1926.451-452 for additional information.

Access

Employees may directly access a scaffold platform if the other surface is 14 inches or closer horizontally and 24 inches or closer vertically.

Employers must provide access when the platform is more than two feet above or below a point of access. Portable, hook-on, attachable, and stairway ladders, as well as stair towers, ramps, walkways, and integral prefabricated frames can be used as types of access. Cross braces cannot be used as a means of access.

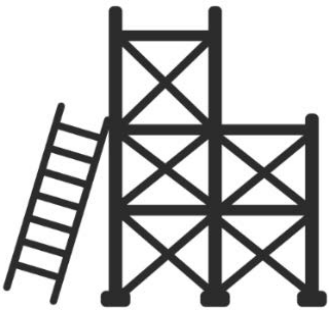
Employees erecting or dismantling a scaffold must be provided a safe means of access that does not create a greater hazard to the employee. Install hook-on or attachable ladders once scaffold erection has reached a point to allow their safe installation and use. End frames of tubular welded frame scaffolds may be used as climbing devices if they have horizontal members that are level, no more than 22 inches apart vertically, and erected in a manner that creates a usable ladder with hand and foot space.

Fall Protection

Employers must provide fall protection for each employee on scaffolding more than 10 feet above a lower level. Review 29 CFR 1926.451 for complete details.

A personal fall arrest system is required for:

- Arial lifts
- Boatswains' chairs
- Catenary scaffolds
- Float scaffolds
- Ladder jack scaffolds
- Needle beam scaffolds



A personal fall arrest system and a guardrail system must be used for:

- Self-contained adjustable scaffolds
- Single-point and two-point suspension scaffolds

A personal fall arrest system or a guardrail system must be used for:

- Supported scaffolds
- Crawling boards (chicken ladder)*
  - * Or a grab line fastened beside each crawling board.
- All other scaffolds not otherwise specified

General Use

OSHA provides requirements for the general use of scaffolding, including:

- Shore or lean-to scaffolds are prohibited.
- A competent person must examine scaffolds before each shift and after an event that could affect its structural integrity.
- Any component damaged or weakened to below capacity requirements must be repaired, replaced, braced, or removed from service.
- Scaffolds must not be moved horizontally with employees on them, unless designed to do so.

For a full list of use requirements, review 29 CFR 1926.451(f).

Falling Object Protection

Toeboards, screens, guardrails, debris nets, catch platforms, canopy structures, or barricades must be used to protect workers from falling objects. Hard hats must also be worn.

For additional information, please consult the following:

- 29 CFR 1910.27 - Scaffolds and Rope Descent Systems
- 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L – Scaffolds
- OSHA 3150: A Guide to Scaffold Use in the Construction Industry (Revised 2002)

Proper Scaffold Use

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:

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Internal Procedures Reviewed:

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

Employees in Attendance		
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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.