Supported Scaffolds

Safety Meeting Packet

Supported scaffolds are in contact with the ground, rather than being suspended by cables. These scaffolds consist of platforms that are supported by rigid, load- bearing members, such as outrigger beams, brackets, poles, legs, uprights, posts, frames, or something similar. Working with supported scaffolds can be dangerous. The failure to comply with safety requirements and guidelines may result in serious injury or death. Thus, when supported scaffolds are used, it is important to understand the types available and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements for proper construction and appropriate use.

General Requirements

Although supported scaffolds can be broken down to several different types, there are some guidelines that apply to all supported scaffolds.

Taller scaffolds pose a greater risk for tipping. OSHA requires that any scaffold with greater than a 4-1 height-to-base width (including outriggers) ratio must be supported from tipping with guying, tying, bracing, or similar methods. Review the OSHA standard (29 CFR 1926.451(c)(1)) and the manufacturer's instructions for proper placement of the support ties, guys, or braces.

Supporting the base of the scaffold is a key component for worker safety. Scaffold poles, legs, posts, frames, and uprights must be seated on base plates and mud sills or other similar foundation. Footings must support the loaded scaffold without settling or displacement. Equipment, like front-end loaders, must not be used to support platforms unless they have been designed for that purpose. Forklifts may be used to support platforms if the entire platform is attached to the fork and it is not moved horizontally while workers are on the platform.

Types

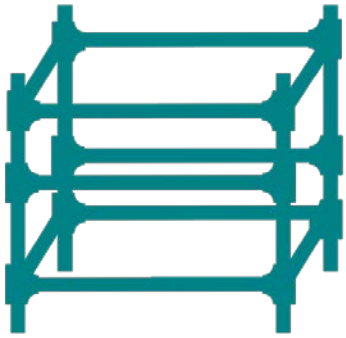
In addition to the general OSHA requirements, each type of suspended scaffold has its own construction requirements and recommendations.

Fabricated Frame

This is the most common type of supported scaffold, consisting of prefabricated panels that can be stacked to create a multi-level scaffold. Cross members must be installed to keep the scaffold plumb and level, and coupling or stacking pins must be used to attach panels vertically.

Tube and Coupler

These are assembled with metal tubing and structural metal coupling devices. The OSHA standard provides the recommended member sizing based on the maximum intended load.



Pole / Wood Pole

A scaffold where all components are made of wood. This type is separated into single-pole, where the interior of the scaffold is supported by a structure or wall, or double-pole, which is supported by double uprights and is independent of a structure. Pole scaffolds are not routinely used because they cannot be easily reused.

Ladder Jack

A scaffold that consists of a platform supported by brackets attached to a ladder. The platform on a ladder jack scaffold may not exceed 20 feet in height, regardless of the type of ladder jack brackets used.

Mobile

A scaffold system set on wheels to be easily moved. Mobile scaffolds may not be moved with workers on board unless:

- The surface on which the scaffold is moved is within 3 degrees of level and free of pits, holes, and obstructions.
- The height-to-base ratio is 2-1 or less, unless it meets or exceeds ANSI/SIA strength requirements.
- Has outrigger frames on both sides, when used.
- If powered, the force must be applied directly to the wheels and does not exceed one foot per second.
- No worker is on a part of the scaffold outside of the wheels or supports.

Pump Jack

A pump jack scaffold consists of a platform set on moveable brackets. The brackets are set on vertical poles and can be raised or lowered in the same way an automobile jack is used.

The maximum intended load for a pump jack scaffold is 500 lbs. between the poles, and no more than two workers shall be on the scaffold at any one time between two supports.

Mast Climbers

A scaffolding system that travels up a central mast that can be free-standing or attached to the structure for increased stability. A mast climber can support heavier loads, is easily adjustable in height, and includes built-in guardrail systems.

Other

There are several other types of supported scaffolds that are regulated by OSHA but used for specialized applications, including Bricklayers' Square Scaffolds, Horse Scaffolds, Roof Bracket Scaffolds, and Outrigger Scaffolds. Always refer to the OSHA standard to find the requirements for the scaffold type being considered.

Scaffold Design

Some scaffolds and their components must be designed by a registered professional engineer. OSHA requires that a registered professional engineer design the following:

- Scaffolds that are moved while workers are on them, unless it is a mobile scaffold.
- Pole scaffolds over 60 feet high.
- Tube and coupler scaffolds over 125 feet high.
- Fabricated frame scaffolds over 125 feet high above the base plates. An engineer must also design brackets to support cantilevered loads in addition to workers.
- Outrigger scaffolds and their components.

For additional information, please review OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1926, Subpart L – Scaffolds.

Supported 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:

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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.