



SCAFFOLD

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Never make any changes to scaffold yourself. Only designated “competent persons” should make modifications to the scaffold.

Scaffold is a temporary, field-erected structure used for working aloft. Because it is temporary and field erected, it is subject to wear and abuse, improper assembly, and unauthorized changes. Construction standards require that a “competent person” inspect scaffolds for defects before every work shift. Yet, in all industries, every employee who works on or around scaffolding should be aware of safety requirements.

Items to watch for while working on scaffolds:

- A competent person shall be clearly identified for all scaffold work.
- Scaffold must be erected on firm footing capable of carrying the maximum intended load. Boxes, barrels, loose concrete blocks or bricks must not be used to support the structure. Scaffolds must be capable of supporting, without failure, four times the maximum intended load. (This load includes not only the weight of the people on the scaffold but also any supplies and equipment being used.)
- Scaffold shall be secured and braced to the structure at intervals not to exceed 30’ horizontally and 26’ vertically.
- The planking must overlap at least 6” but no more than 18” at the ends.
- Toe boards at least 4” high (3 1/2” for construction) should be installed along the outer scaffold edge, to prevent tools or materials from falling onto workers below.
- The federal OSHA standard for construction and general industry requires guardrails when a platform is 10’ or higher. (Please note--Some State OSHA plans require 6’).
- Top guard rails shall be installed 42” above the scaffold walking surface, with a “mid-rail” at about 21”.
- A hard hat must be worn at all times while working on or near scaffolds.
- Do not use a ladder or other device on scaffold platforms to increase height or reach.
- Employees shall not climb cross braces or end frames, unless end frames are specifically designed to be climbed. An access ladder, stair tower or equivalent safe access shall be provided for all scaffolds.

Never use a scaffold until it is inspected and signed off on by the competent person.