



## ROLLING SCAFFOLD SAFETY

Inadequate scaffolding is responsible for many construction accidents. Scaffolds should be designed, built and inspected by competent persons. To avoid the use of makeshift platforms, each job should be carefully planned to assure that scaffolding is used when required and that such scaffolding conforms to the applicable regulations.

### Erection

Scaffolds should never be built haphazardly. Scaffolds should always be erected:

- Plumb
- Level
- Square
- Secure

Never climb on an improperly-erected scaffold. Scaffolds must be erected with:

- Fully planked platforms (no holes or gaps)
- Specially designed, scaffold-grade planks
- Base plates or sills under each leg
- Feet (minimum of 4" x 4") or adjustable jacks – Proper access, e.g., ladders
- Guardrails, midrails, and toe boards as needed

### Hazards

OSHA requires that scaffold users must be properly trained in:

- Electrical exposures
- Fall protection
- Falling object protection

### Electrical Hazards

If power lines cannot be de-energized (ideal), the worker and the scaffold must be separated by at least:

- 3' if lines are insulated and < 300 volts
- 10' if lines are uninsulated or ≥ 300 volts

When distances cannot be maintained, isolating barriers or mats must be installed.

### Fall Hazards

Scaffold platforms > 10 feet require fall protection. If guardrails cannot be used:

- Fall arrest must be provided, including
  - Anchorages (able to support 500 pounds)
  - Full body harness and shock absorbing lanyards
- Make sure you know where to tie off and how. If you are unsure, check with your supervisor.

### Falling Object Protection

- Tools and materials can easily fall from a scaffold to injure someone below.
- Toe boards are generally required
  - Over the front and rear face of the scaffold
  - All levels over entries or access points
  - Nominal dimension if materials are piled > 4 inches
- Do not remove toe boards or screening unless others are warned of the new hazard you are creating. If you have removed toe boards or screening, replace it as soon as the work requiring removal is completed.

### Load Capacity

- Light trade: 25 pounds / square foot (plasterers, drywallers, painters, electricians)
- Medium trade: 50 pounds / square foot (masons)
- Heavy trade: 75 pounds / square foot (stone contractors)
- Frames:
  - If bearers are closer, planks can carry greater loads
  - Load rating can be determined by spacing:
    - Light trade: 10 feet apart
    - Medium trade: 8 feet apart
    - Heavy trade: 7 feet apart
  - Scaffold frames must never be spaced wider than 10 feet apart. If you see such a situation, do not get on a scaffold.
- Stability
  - Scaffold legs carry loads:
    - Of people, planking, frames, and equipment
    - From platform heights to the ground
    - Weighing between 2000 and 3000 pounds
  - Plates or sills must
    - Include no unstable materials
    - Bear fully and evenly on the ground
    - Follow manufacturer's requirements

**Safe Access**

There are many ways to get on a scaffold, including:

- Ladders
- Attachable stairs
- Ramps from an upper level
- Climb from inside a structure

Scaffold cross braces, rails, or other elements of the scaffold are not designed to accept climbing loads. They can also be slippery and you can lose your grip. Never climb cross braces to gain access to a scaffold.

**General**

1. Scaffolds and their components must not be overloaded. Working platforms must conform to load requirements; steps must be taken to prevent plank slippage (use cleats or hooks).
2. Hardware such as latches, pins, anchors, and related gear must be in good repair; look out for stress fractures and cracked welds.
3. When evaluating the scaffold's load include the number of workmen, materials being used, and the tools on the scaffold.
4. The platform is the actual working surface that is constructed using wood planks or fabricated planks, to create a sturdy platform. This platform must not have gaps, holes, or missing planking.
5. The walkway is the portion or part of a platform used for access only and is not to be used as a working platform or staging.
6. Barrels, boxes, kegs, horses, ladders, loose tile blocks, loose piles of bricks, A-frames or other unstable objects shall not be used as work platforms or to support scaffolds. Never use work platforms mounted on top of other work platforms.
7. Where persons are required to work or pass under a scaffold, a screen of 18 gauge, 1/2-inch wire mesh or equivalent protection is required between the toeboard and the guardrail.
8. Overhead protection is required if employees working on scaffolds are exposed to overhead hazards. Such protection must be 2 x 10 inch planks or the equivalent.

**TOOLBOX TALKS  
ROLLING SCAFFOLDS**

Meeting Conducted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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| Attendees: |           |       |           |
|------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| Print      | Signature | Print | Signature |
| 1.         |           | 9.    |           |
| 2.         |           | 10.   |           |
| 3.         |           | 11.   |           |
| 4.         |           | 12.   |           |
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| 7.         |           | 15.   |           |
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