

Supervisor and Employee Responsibilities

Supervisors of all employees that are required to work from scaffolds will ensure the following procedures are taken:

1. Comply with the current and proposed OSHA regulations for working with scaffolds.
2. Assure that design and construction of scaffolds conform with OSHA requirements.
3. Shield scaffold suspension ropes and body belt or harness system droplines (lifelines) from hot or corrosive processes, and protect them from sharp edges or abrasion.
4. Inspect all scaffolds, scaffold components, and personal fall protection equipment before each use.
5. Provide personal fall protection equipment and make sure that it is used by all workers on suspension scaffolds.
6. Use structurally sound portions of buildings or other structures to anchor droplines for body belt or harness systems and tiebacks for suspension scaffold support devices. Droplines and tiebacks should be secured to separate anchor points on structural members.
7. Provide proper training for all workers who use any type of suspension scaffold or fall protection equipment.
8. Follow scaffold manufacturers' guidance regarding the assembly, rigging, and use of scaffolds.

Employees shall;

1. Inspect all scaffolds, scaffold components, and personal fall protection equipment before each use. Defective components must be removed from service and replaced.
2. Shield scaffold suspension ropes and body belt or harness system droplines (lifelines) from hot or corrosive processes, and protect them from sharp edges or abrasion.

Types of Scaffolds-The most common types of scaffolds are built up scaffolds, rolling scaffolds and suspended scaffolds. **Built up scaffolds** are made of wood or metal supports and are built up higher as the work progresses. In all built up scaffolds, the vertical members must be straight up and down and the horizontal members completely level. If the scaffold tilts noticeably it might collapse if it is unevenly loaded. Cross bracing or diagonal bracing or both will keep the scaffold erect, level and rigid. Again, make sure the footing and anchorage for built up scaffolds are sound, rigid and strong enough to support four times the maximum intended load.

Never allow unstable objects such as barrels, boxes, loose bricks or concrete blocks to be used as support for scaffolds or planks. As a means for additional safety, built up scaffolds should be secured to the building or structure at least every 30 feet horizontally and every twenty six feet vertically, by heavy wire, brackets or the equivalent. A ladder must be provided to give you safe access to the scaffold platform.

Rolling scaffolds are similar to built up scaffolds except they are wheel mounted. They have the same safety requirements, plus a few additional ones. To prevent tipping, the maximum work height of a rolling scaffold must not be more than 4 times the smallest dimension of its base. When this requirement cannot be met, either use suitable outrigger frames to enlarge the base, or brace the scaffold. Rolling scaffold wheels must have a lock to prevent unexpected movement. Never move the scaffold with anyone on the scaffold.

Suspended scaffolds, such as those used in office building construction, carry a working platform on ropes secured to outrigger beams thrust out from the building. There are light duty, medium duty and heavy duty scaffolds, each designed for a specific requirement and use. Always follow your company's policies and procedures when erecting, using, handling or working on scaffolds. There have been many fatalities, serious injuries related to poorly constructed scaffolds, overloading, improper use of scaffolds and in general, not following proper procedures. There's no reason to take short cuts....it's simply asking for an accident. When your using scaffolds, take the time to work and act safely because your life really does depend upon how well you follow the rules.

Notes

Rolling Scaffolds- General Requirements:

- The height of the rolling scaffold must not exceed four times the minimum base dimension.
- The work platform must be planked tight for the full width of the scaffold. Cleat the underside of the planks to prevent their movement.
- Caster breaks must be locked when the scaffold is not in motion.
- Get help when moving rolling scaffolds. Make certain that the route is clear. Watch for holes and overhead obstructions.
- No one shall be permitted to ride on rolling scaffolds.

Two Point Suspended Scaffolds (Swinging Stages) General Requirements:

- Each employee working from a two point suspended scaffold must be tied off to an independent safety line.
- Suspended scaffolds must be not less than 20 inches nor more than 36 inches wide.
- Wire ropes used to suspend such scaffolds must be able to withstand a load that is six times the load it is intended to support.
- Non-conductive insulating material must be placed over suspension cables of each scaffold for protection when the chance of contact with an electric arc exists.

Shielding of Ropes

The design and construction of scaffolds must conform with OSHA requirements concerning type of equipment, rated capacities, construction methods, and use. Each scaffold and scaffold component must be capable of supporting its own weight plus at least four times the maximum intended load without failure. Each suspension rope must be capable of supporting at least six times the maximum intended load.

Suspension ropes and droplines for body belt or harness systems should be shielded from:

- heat-producing processes such as welding,
- acids or other corrosive substances, and
- sharp edges or abrasions.

Such ropes should be made from material that is not adversely affected by heat or by acids or other corrosives.

Notes

Closure

The Company will provide workers with proper training, including the manufacturers' recommendations for installing and operating suspended scaffold systems and for using personal fall protection equipment. Untrained personnel should never be permitted to work from any type of suspension scaffold.

What questions do you have?

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