



074: Scaffold Erection and Inspection

Construction

You must be qualified to erect scaffolding. That means you have the training and experience to put the scaffolding up safely. If your site policies require certification, make sure you are certified. Otherwise, do not erect scaffolding. If you need it erected and are not qualified, ask your foreman to provide a qualified scaffold erector.

Each platform on each working level must be fully planked or decked.

Unless space prohibits, scaffold platforms and walkways must be at least 18 inches wide. This requirement does not apply to the following scaffolds: ladder jack, top plate bracket, roof bracket, or pump jacket, all of which must 12 inches wide.

Secure the cantilevered portions of platforms so they don't tip.

If you can't ensure the platform will support employees and materials without tipping, block access to the cantilever end.

If a supported scaffold has a height-to-base width ratio (including outriggers) of more than four to one, restrain it from tipping by guying, bracing or equivalent means.

Ensure that supported scaffold legs, poles, posts, frames, and uprights bear on base plates and mud sills or other adequate firm foundation.

Ensure that supported scaffold legs, poles, posts, frames, and uprights are plumb and braced, to prevent swaying or displacement.

If a scaffold is required to be secured to the structure due to height or stability requirements, ensure it's adequately secured at the prescribed vertical and horizontal points.

Inspection

Before using scaffolding at the start of your shift, ensure a (OSHA) competent person has inspected it. If your site requires inspection tags for this purpose, read the date to ensure the tag has not expired. Notify your foreman, the scaffold foreman, or the onsite safety director of any problems you are not qualified to fix.

If you are not a qualified person, you can still make a cursory inspection. Make sure the fasteners don't look loose, the planks or decks are secure, and the footing is firm.

Look for slippery materials on the surface. In cold weather, that might be ice or snow. In warm weather, that might be process waste. If such materials are present, clean them off before using the scaffolding for the intended job.

Use

Use the proper fall protection. For example, you need personal fall restraint if you are more than 10 feet off the ground and the scaffold is incomplete, which includes a missing guardrail. On job sites where the mandatory height is less, the lower height shall prevail.

Keep scaffolding free of debris to prevent slipping hazards and to prevent such debris from falling on people below.

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Read your company policy on scaffolding so you can answer questions.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Issues that workers should be aware of when erecting or inspecting scaffolding.

Discussion notes :

