SAFE WORK PRACTICE **SWP-56**
Revised: March 2023 **SCAFFOLDS AND TEMPORARY PLATFORMS**

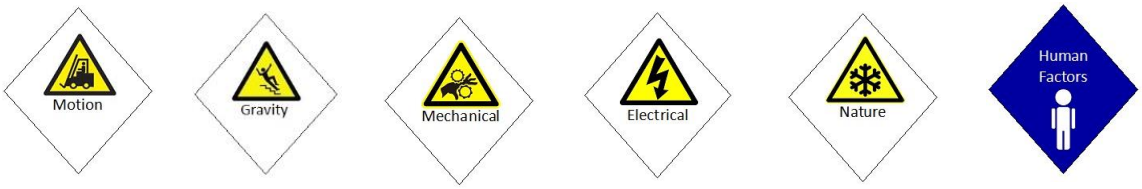
PURPOSE/APPLICATION

This safe work practice governs the erection, use, maintenance, inspection, and dismantling of scaffolding, which is used to provide a secure platform for elevated work locations, or access/egress to/from a work area. At Strike, the most common types of scaffolds used are tube-and-clamp, and safeway or access scaffold.

PPE
- Strike minimum requirements
- Fall protection equipment as determined by hazard assessment

TRAINING
- Fall protection training (where applicable)

HAZARDS & CONCERNS
- Gravity (falls, falling objects, scaffold collapse)
- Overhead equipment
- Hazards involving material loading, handling, storage
- Electrical (overhead powerlines)
- Motion (traffic, equipment)
- Rescue access

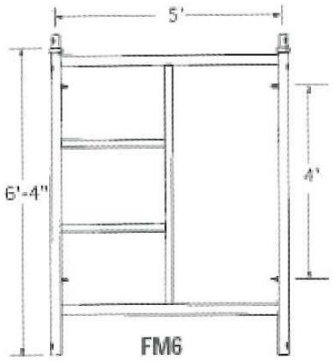


PRECAUTIONS

The scaffolding and temporary platforms erected to provide a safe work area during construction, demolition, alteration or repair of buildings or other structures must:

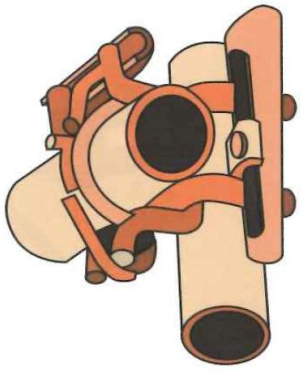
- Comply with manufacturer's specifications, engineering specifications, CSA standards, site/client requirements, and OH&S legislative requirements (province-specific).
- Be installed by competent worker(s), or under the direct supervision of a competent worker.
- Note: In industry, although some incidents are caused by poorly constructed scaffolding, the majority involve incorrect use of the scaffold.
- Workers are provided training in the use of temporary work platforms as part of their new workers orientation

Common Scaffold Types (Strike) (Figure 1):



Tubular Welded


System (Modular)


Tube & Clamp

Assign a competent person to coordinate scaffolding activities:

Workers must be suitably qualified in the proper selection, use and care of scaffolding equipment and materials. Workers must have a basic knowledge of scaffolding safety.

- Strike will ensure that scaffolds used by workers are in a safe condition and are able to withstand the load regardless of who erected the scaffold.
- Strike will ensure that the components of a scaffold have been visually inspected for defects by a competent person prior to erection.
- Any component found to be defective is to be replaced before the scaffold is used.
- Only a competent person will maintain/inspect scaffolding.

Installing/Erecting Scaffolding – General Considerations:

- Ensure all hazards and controls identified in the hazard assessment are in place.
- Strike recommends that tubular welded ("Safeway") scaffold not be higher than three lifts. If taller scaffold is required, it is recommended that a different style be selected.
- A tagging system must be used. Tags may be valid for a maximum of 21 calendar days unless a deficiency that requires the tagging to be reissued sooner is identified.
- Flagging or signage should be in place (e.g., Danger – Overhead Work) to warn workers of overhead hazards, during erection, use, and dismantling of scaffold.
- Build on a firm, level base, using mud sills, where required.
- Wheeled or rolling scaffolds must have castor wheel locks or chocks, which must be engaged to secure scaffold against movement, prior to use.
- Ensure that a scaffold platform is secured against movement.
- The platform of each scaffold must be a minimum width of 20 in (50 cm).
- Overlapped platforms (i.e., scaffold planks) must extend at least 12 in (30 cm) beyond a ledger.
- A minimum 1" thick x 6" wide toe board, installed flush with the platform, is required on all temporary platforms higher than 10 ft/3 m, where material or tools are being stored on the scaffold, and/or where work on the scaffold poses a risk to workers below.
- All openings, including stairway openings, must be appropriately guarded to prevent a worker from falling.
- All scaffolds must have a platform perimeter handrail installed 36"/0.9m to 42"/1m above the platform complete with a mid-rail.
- All scaffolds must be provided with an access ladder attached to the scaffold (Note: Most metal access-type scaffolds are manufactured with ladder rungs integral to the design).
- Maintain established minimum clearance from all power lines.
- A scaffold must be grounded if:
  - It is a metal scaffold and is located close to a high voltage energized electrical conductor or equipment and/or;
  - A hazardous level of electrical charge is likely to be induced in the scaffold.
- All lumber used to construct scaffold must be graded and marked according to the Standard Grading Rules for Canadian Lumber.

- Wooden platform material must be sound, close-grained, unpainted, and finished on all four sides, and inspected prior to being installed. Scaffold planks must be stamped to indicate certification for scaffolding.
- All connections between the parts of a scaffold must be secured against unintended release.
- A single pole or double pole scaffold must be supported against lateral movement by adequate bracing, anchored by one tie-in for each 4.6 meter vertical interval and one tie in for each 6.4 meter horizontal interval, anchored by one tie in for each 3 meter vertical interval and one tie in for each 3 meter horizontal interval if the scaffold is hoarded (hoarded masonry walk-through scaffolds have different anchor and tie-in space requirements), and set plumb on a base plate, jackscrew or other load dispersing device on a stable surface.
- Any scaffold component showing signs of defect must be tagged "out of service" and removed/replaced.

Tagging Requirements:

All required scaffolding will be color coded using tags at each point of entry indicating the status and conditions as follows:

- A green tag with "Safe for Use" wording to indicate it is safe to access and use, or
- A yellow tag with "Caution: Potential Hazard" wording to indicate the presence of a potential or unusual hazard, or
- A red tag with "Unsafe for Use" wording, to indicate it is <u>not</u> safe to access or use.

Figure 2. Example scaffold tags.

- Scaffolding without a tag will be considered the same as a red tag and is <u>not</u> safe for use until it has been inspected and tagged by a competent individual
- The following will be recorded on the maintenance/inspection tag:
  - Date scaffold was erected
  - Date scaffold was last inspected
  - Weight limitation of scaffold (duty rating/load capability)
  - Name and signature of competent person who last inspected/maintained scaffold
  - Any precautions to potential scaffold users to be taken when working on scaffold
  - The expiry date of the tag (maximum 21 calendar days from being erected)

Inspection/Maintenance:

- All scaffolding will be visually inspected by a competent worker prior to use. Scaffolding must be checked by the user daily when in use, for any defects, changes, or hazards.
- If a metal scaffold or a component of a metal scaffold is damaged, deteriorated, or weakened so that the strength and/or stability of the scaffold is affected, the employer or contractor shall ensure the scaffold is not used until the scaffold or component is repaired or replaced by a competent person in accordance with manufacturers or engineer's specifications.
- The employer, contractor, owner, or supplier shall ensure that only competent persons maintain and inspect an aerial device, elevating work platform, personnel lifting unit or scaffold.

Ladders

- Scaffold access ladders must:
  - Be securely fastened to the scaffold.
  - Extend at least 1 meter above the uppermost working level of the scaffold.
  - Be equipped with a ladder cage that begins within 7 ft 10 in (2.4 m) of the ground if the ladder is more than 20 feet (6.1 m) in height.

General Dos and Don'ts:

DO Visually check scaffold and consult tag before use.

DO Wear a fall protection harness and be tied off to an anchor point at shoulder height or above, with a shock absorber lanyard (fall arrest device), when required to work on a scaffold/platform where there is a risk that you could fall 10ft/3m or more, or there is an unusual possibility of injury if you were to fall less than 10ft/3m.

DO Protect scaffold from being contacted by vehicles and powered mobile equipment, using concrete barriers or other means, where this hazard exists.

DO Install warning devices/signs when scaffolding is installed above walkways/roadways.

DO Keep platforms free of debris, ice, and snow.

DO Use tag lines when hoisting/lowering materials.

DO Use tool bags c/w hand lines when hoisting/lowering tools.

DO Minimize tool and material storage on platforms.

DO HIAC the work area for proximity to exposed energized high voltage electrical conductors.

DO Review the scaffold tag information before accessing scaffold and conduct your own HIAC or hazard reassessment of the work area and your specific work task.

DO Maintain 3-point contact when climbing or descending scaffold access ladders.

DON'T Block up scaffold bases with blocks, bricks, lumber, etc.

DON'T Drop or throw anything from scaffold.

DON'T Carry tools or material while climbing a ladder. Use tool bags and/or taglines.

DON'T Work from a scaffold access ladder.

DON'T Use a ladder sloped against a scaffold unless it is secured against movement.

DON'T Jump off a scaffold, or the access ladder.

DON'T Use ladders, crates, pallets, etc. on top of scaffold platforms to increase the working height/reach of workers.

DON'T Use scaffolding as an anchor point for fall arrest unless you are a scaffolder; only scaffolders are permitted to tie off to scaffolding.

DON'T Use scaffolding for any rigging (chain falls, come-alongs, etc.); it is not designed to be loaded in this way

DON'T Exceed the load limit for the temporary work platform

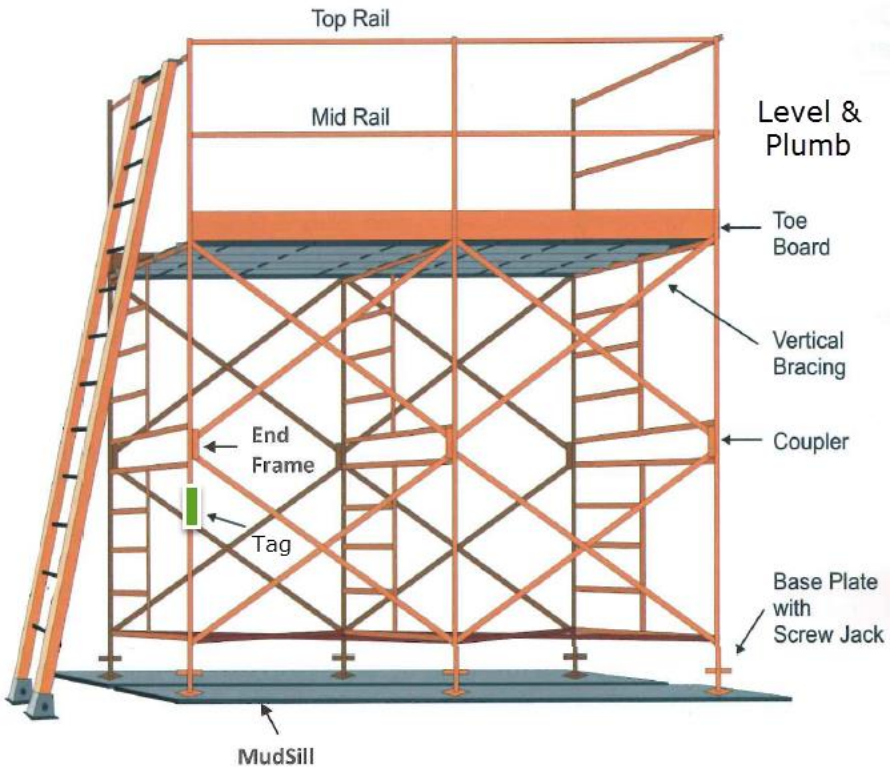


Figure 3. Typical components of scaffold.

Develop an Emergency Response and Rescue Plan:

In the event of an emergency that requires a rescue from an elevated platform, a site-specific rescue plan must be developed and communicated to participating workers before the scaffold is used.

- Identify situations that would call for immediate implementation of an emergency response/rescue. (e.g., electrocution, fall, etc.)
- Determine if specialized emergency/safety services or equipment are required to be on site.
- Develop a list of emergency response numbers including:
  - Emergency services
  - Client contacts
  - Strike supervisors
- Identify the evacuation and emergency plan to transport injured workers.
- Identify first responders and define their roles and responsibilities.
- Identify workers with specific rescue responsibilities and clearly define what they are.
- Delegate First Aid responders.
- Define roles of all others in managing, controlling, or assisting in an emergency.
- Determine what alarm and communication systems will be used.
- Determine the muster point location and how to account for all workers.

REFERENCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Manufacturer's specifications

CSA Standard Can/CSA –S269.2-M87 (R2003)

CF-S-25 – Safe Scaffold Checklist

SWP – 24 Overhead Power Lines (Working Near)

COP – 06 Fall Protection

REGULATIONS

Consult Provincial OH&S Regulations for more specific information.

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