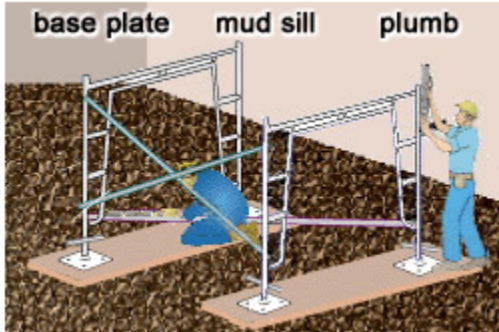


SCAFFOLD SAFETY



Scaffolds are to be erected & maintained in accordance with OSHA & manufacturer requirements. Scaffolds are erected only under the supervision of a competent person identified in the Training Matrix.

Inspection – A competent person shall inspect scaffolds daily before use. Scaffolds will be **tagged** either green for approved for use, red/white for out of service or under construction, or yellow for fall protection required while working on scaffold. See attachment XXVI.

A Scaffold Inspection Form must be completed by the competent person for each scaffold erected and in use on site.

Scaffold Erection Requirements:

Base Section

It is impossible for a stable structure to be built upon a foundation that does not start out square and level. OSHA has standards that apply specifically to the steps that must be taken to assure a stable scaffold base. **Note:** Except where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds, as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the Supported Scaffolds module.

- In order to **assure stability**, supported scaffolds must be set on:
 - Base plates,
 - Mud sills, or
 - Other adequate firm foundation.
- **Footings must be capable of supporting the loaded scaffold** without settling or displacement.
- **Unstable objects** may not be used to support scaffolds or platform units.
- **Front-end loaders** and similar pieces of equipment shall not be used to support scaffold platforms unless they have been **specifically designed by the manufacturer** for such use.
- **Forklifts** shall not be used to support scaffold platforms unless:

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- the entire **platform is attached** to the fork, and
- The forklift is **not moved horizontally** while the platform is occupied.

Supported scaffold poles, frames, uprights, etc. must be **plumb and braced to prevent swaying and displacement**. In general, a level is the easiest way to achieve the desired right angles.

Support Structure

To control the risk of a scaffold falling or collapsing, scaffolds are built within OSHA standards relating to strength and structural integrity. **Note: Except where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds, as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the Supported Scaffolds module.**

Scaffold is erected with stable footing, sections are level, & plumb.

Metal base feet will be installed and wooden mud sills are always required.

Fully decked platform with no gaps larger than 1”.

Handrails, Mid-rails, and toe boards in place. Top rail will be 42” +/- 3”, midrail midway or 21” and a 4” toe board.

Proper access/egress will be provided to the working level with a ladder or other approved method. Climbing the scaffold bracing or uprights is not allowed.

Scaffolding will not be erected within 10’ of a power line.

Capacity

- Scaffolds and scaffold components must be capable of supporting, without failure, **their own weight and at least 4 times their maximum intended load**.
- Scaffolds shall be **altered** only under the supervision and direction of a **competent person**.

Bracing

- Frames and panels must be connected by **cross, horizontal, or diagonal braces**, alone or in combination, which secure vertical members together laterally.
- As frames are stacked, cross braces must be of such length as will automatically keep the scaffold **plumb, level, and square**.
- All brace connections must be secured to **prevent dislodging**.

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Pinning

- Frames and panels must be joined together vertically by **coupling or stacking pins or equivalent means**.
- Frames and panels must be **locked together to prevent uplift, where uplift can occur**. Uplift is the separation of a frame from the frame below it.

Components

- Scaffold components manufactured by different manufacturers **must not be intermixed**, unless they fit together without being forced and the scaffold's structural integrity is maintained.
- Scaffold components manufactured by different manufacturers are **not allowed to be modified to make them fit together**, unless a competent person determines that the resulting scaffold is structurally sound.
- Scaffold components made of **dissimilar metals must not be used together** unless a competent person has determined that galvanic action will not reduce the strength of any component below OSHA standards.

Access

Workers are most vulnerable to fall hazards when climbing on or off a scaffold. Therefore, safe scaffold access will be provided. Erectors and dismantlers face additional access problems due to the incomplete condition of the scaffolding. Requirements to prevent falls that apply only to these workers are addressed separately below. **Note: Except where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds, as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the Supported Scaffolds module.**

- Employees must be able to **safely access any level** of a scaffold that is 2 feet above or below an access point.
- OSHA standards specifically forbid **climbing cross-braces** as a means of access.



Ladders

- Portable, hook-on, and attachable ladders must be **positioned so as not to tip** the scaffold.
- Hook-on and attachable ladders must be specifically **designed for use with the type of scaffold** on which they are used.
- Hook-on and attachable **ladder rungs** shall:
 - Be positioned so that their **bottom rung** is not more than 24 inches above the scaffold supporting level.

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- Have **uniform spacing** between rungs of a maximum 16¾ inches.
- Have **minimum rung length** of 11½ inches.
- Have **rest platforms** provided at a maximum of 35-foot vertical intervals.
- Stairway-type ladders shall:
 - Be positioned so that their **bottom step** is not more than 24 inches above the scaffold supporting level.
 - Have **rest platforms** at maximum vertical intervals of 12 feet.
 - Have a **minimum step width** of 16 inches, except for mobile scaffold stairway-type ladders, which shall have a minimum step width of 11½ inches.
 - Have **slip-resistant treads** on all steps and landings.
- Steps and rungs of ladders and stairway-type ladders shall **line up vertically with each other** between rest platforms.

Built-In Access

- Integral (built-in) scaffold access frames must:
 - Be **specifically designed and constructed** for use as ladder rungs.
 - **Not be used as work platforms** when rungs are less than 11½ inches in length, unless each affected employee uses **appropriate fall protection**.
 - Have rungs which are **uniformly spaced** and a length of at least 8 inches, with a maximum **space between rungs** of 16¾ inches.
 - Have **rest platforms** provided at a maximum of 35 foot vertical intervals.
- Stair towers (scaffold stairway/towers) must have:

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- A **stair rail consisting of a top rail and a midrail** on each side of the stairway.
- A top rail of each stair rail system **capable of serving as a handrail**, unless a separate handrail is provided.
- **Sufficient handhold** on handrails, and top rails serving as handrails, for employees grasping them **to avoid falling**.
- Stair rails and handrails **surfaced to prevent punctures or lacerations** to employees, and to **prevent snagging of clothing**.
- Ends of stair rails and handrails constructed so that they **do not constitute a projection hazard**.
- A **space of at least 3 inches** between handrails, or stair rails used as handrails, and other objects.
- A **distance of no less than 28 inches and no more than 37 inches** from the upper surface of the stair rail to the forward edge of the tread, in line with the face of the riser.
- A **landing platform** at least 18 inches wide by 18 inches long at each level.
- A scaffold stairway **width of at least 18 inches** between stair rails.
- **Slip-resistant surfaces** on treads and landings.
- Stairways installed between **40 degrees and 60 degrees from the horizontal**.
- Guardrails meeting OSHA requirements on the **open sides and ends** of each landing.
- **Uniform riser height**, within ¼-inch, for each flight of stairs. Greater variations in riser height are allowed for the top and bottom steps of the entire system (not for each flight of stairs).
- **Uniform tread depth**, within ¼-inch, for each flight of stairs.

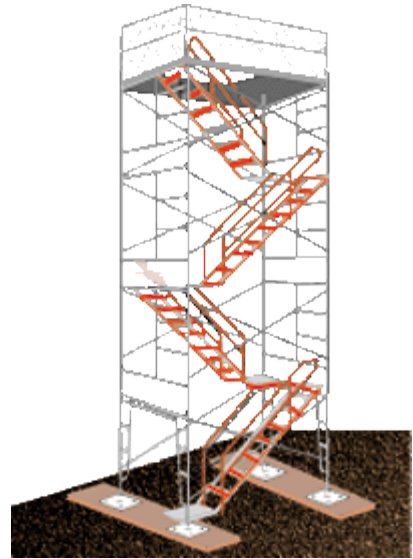


Figure 2. Stair tower with stair rail, including top rail and midrail.

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Ramps and Walkways

- Ramps and walkways 6 feet or more above lower levels must have **guardrails that comply with 1926 Subpart M – Fall Protection**.
- No ramp or walkway shall **incline more than 1:3** (1 vertical to 3 horizontal, or 20 degrees above the horizontal).
- If a ramp or walkway has a slope of more than 1:8, it must have **cleats securely fastened to the planks** not more than 14 inches apart, to provide footing.

Direct Access

Direct access to or from another surface is permitted only when the scaffold is **not more than 14 inches horizontally and not more than 24 inches vertically** from the other surface.

Erectors or Dismantlers

- Employers are required to **provide safe access** for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds **where it is feasible, and where it does not create a greater hazard**.
- Hook-on or attachable ladders shall be installed as soon as scaffold erection has progressed to the point that **permits safe installation and use** (Figure 4).
- When erecting and dismantling tubular, welded-frame scaffolds, end **frames may be used as climbing devices** for access, provided that:
 - **Horizontal members** are parallel, level, and not more than 22 vertical inches apart.
 - They are erected in a manner that creates a **usable ladder** and provides **good hand hold and foot space**.
- **Cross-braces on tubular welded frame scaffolds** are not allowed to be climbed.

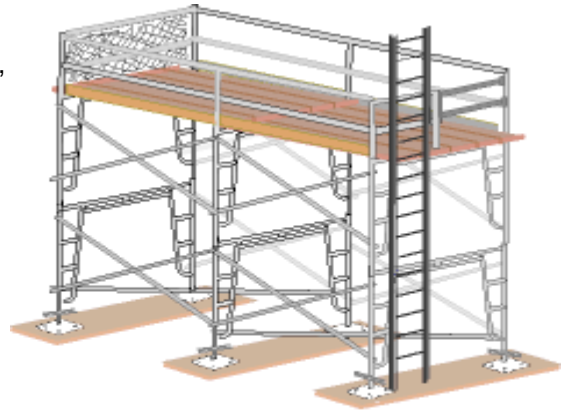
Competent Person

The competent person is **responsible for determining the safety and feasibility** of installing and using safe means of access, based on site conditions and the type of scaffold involved.

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Fall Protection

The number one scaffold hazard is worker falls. Fall protection consists of either personal fall-arrest systems or guardrail systems, and must be provided on any scaffold 10 feet or more above a lower level. Specific requirements are described below. **Note: Except where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds, as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the Supported Scaffolds module.**



- Each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet above a lower level must be **protected from falling** to that lower level.
- Fall protection consists of either **personal fall arrest systems or guardrail systems** meeting OSHA requirements.
- Employees performing **overhand bricklaying operations** from a supported scaffold must be protected from falling from all open sides and ends of the scaffold, except at the side next to the wall being laid.

Fall Arrest System

- In addition to meeting the requirements, personal fall-arrest systems used on scaffolds are to be **attached by lanyard to a vertical lifeline, horizontal lifeline, or scaffold structural member.**
 - When vertical lifelines are used, they must be fastened to a **fixed safe point of anchorage, independent of the scaffold**, and be **protected from sharp edges and abrasion.** Safe points of anchorage include structural members of buildings, but not standpipes, vents, electrical conduit, etc., which may give way under the force of a fall.
 - It is dangerous and therefore impermissible for two or more vertical lifelines to be **attached to each other, or to the same point** of anchorage.
 - When **horizontal lifelines** are used, they are to be secured to **two or more structural members** of the scaffold.

Guardrail Systems

- Guardrail systems must be installed along all **open sides and ends of platforms**, and must be in place before the scaffold is released for use by employees other than erection/dismantling crews.
- **Walkways located within a scaffold** must have guardrail systems installed within 9½ inches of and along at least one side of the walkway.
- Each **toprail** or equivalent member of a guardrail system must be able to **withstand a force of at least 200 pounds** applied in any downward or horizontal direction, at any point along its top edge.

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- The **top edge height of toprails** on supported scaffolds must be between 36 inches and 45 inches.
- **When conditions warrant**, the height of the top edge **may exceed the 45-inch height**, provided the guardrail system meets all other criteria.
- **Midrails, screens, mesh, intermediate vertical members, solid panels**, etc., must be able to **withstand a force of at least 150 pounds** applied in any downward or horizontal direction, at any point along the midrail or other member.
 - When **midrails** are used, they must be **installed at a height approximately midway** between the top edge of the guardrail system and the platform surface.
 - When **screens and mesh** are used, they must **extend from the top edge** of the guardrail system to the scaffold platform, and along the entire opening between the supports.
 - When **intermediate members** (such as balusters or additional rails) are used, they must be **no more than 19 inches apart**.
- Guardrails must be **surfaced to prevent punctures or lacerations to employees** and to **prevent snagging of clothing**, which may cause employees to lose their balance.
- Ends of rails may not **extend beyond their terminal posts**, unless they do not constitute a projection hazard to employees.
- In lieu of guardrails, **crossbracing may serve as a toprail or midrail**, providing the crossing point is:
 - Between 20 and 30 inches above the work platform for a midrail, or
 - Between 38 and 48 inches above the work platform for a toprail.

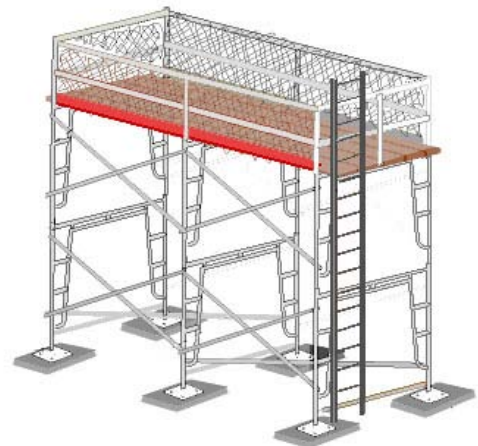
Erectors and Dismantlers

Fall protection for employees will be provided while erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds where it is feasible, and where installing and using it does not create a greater hazard.

The **competent person** is **responsible for determining the feasibility and safety** of providing fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds.

Platform

Except when used only as a walkway, the platform is the work area of the scaffold. Therefore, an inspection of a scaffold platform requires safety checks of both the platform structure and how the platform is used by the workers. **Note: Except**



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where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds, as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the Supported Scaffolds module.

Planking

- Each platform must be **fully planked or decked** between the front uprights and the guardrail supports.
- Platforms used solely as **walkways**, or **during erection or dismantling**, require only the planking that the employer establishes is necessary to provide safe working conditions.
- **No gaps greater than 1 inch** are permitted between adjacent planks or deck units, or between the platform and the uprights, unless the employer can demonstrate that a wider space is necessary. In such cases, the gap will be as small as possible and not exceed 9½ inches.
- Wooden planking must not be covered with **opaque finishes**, except that platform edges may be marked for identification. Platforms may be coated periodically with wood preservatives, fire retardants, and slip-resistant finishes, provided they do not obscure the top or bottom wood surfaces.
- Scaffold platforms and walkways must be **at least 18 inches wide**, unless they are used in areas that the employer can demonstrate are so narrow that they must be less than 18 inches wide. In such cases, the platforms must be as wide as feasible, and fall protection must be provided.
- Nothing that could cause a **slip, trip or fall** (i.e. tools, scrap material, chemicals, snow, ice, etc.) is allowed to accumulate on the platform.
- When **moving platforms to the next level**, the existing platform must be left undisturbed until the new end frames have been set in place and braced.

Work Distance

For most activities, there must be **no more than a 14-inch gap** between the scaffold platform and the structure being worked on. For lathing and plastering, a gap of 18 inches is permitted.

Overlap

- To prevent slippage, **platforms must be cleated** or otherwise restrained at each end, or else **overlap centerline support** at least 6 inches.
- Unless it is designed and installed to support employees and materials without tipping, or has guardrails that block employee access, each **end of a platform may not extend over its support** more than 12 inches (for platforms 10 feet or shorter in length) or more than 18 inches (for platforms more than 10 feet long).
- On scaffolds where platforms are **overlapped to create a long platform**, the overlap may only occur over supports, and may not be less than 12 inches, unless the platforms are restrained (i.e., nailed together) to prevent movement.

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- On scaffolds where platforms are **abutted to create a long platform**, each abutted end must rest on a separate support surface (this does not preclude the use of shared support members such as “T” sections, hook-on platforms that rest on common supports, etc.).
- When platforms must overlap because a **scaffold changes direction**, such as turning a corner, platforms that rest on a bearer at an angle other than a right angle shall be laid first, and platforms that rest at right angles over the same bearer shall be laid second, on top of the first platform.

Brackets

- When brackets are used to support **cantilevered platforms**, they must:
 - Be **seated** with side-brackets parallel to the frames, and end-brackets at 90 degrees to the frames.
 - Be used **only to support personnel**, unless the scaffold has been designed for other loads by a qualified engineer and built to withstand the tipping forces caused by other loads. [1926.452

Capacity

- Scaffold platforms must be able to **support** their own weight, plus **four times the maximum intended load**.
- Do not load the scaffold or any component parts **beyond their maximum capacity** (their own weight and 4:1 the maximum intended load). A scaffold can be overloaded by:
 - Too many people being on the platform,
 - Too much material being stored on the platform, and
 - Point loading, or concentrating too much of the load in one area

Falling Object Protection

There are two kinds of falling object hazards associated with scaffolds. One concerns the employees on the scaffold itself, and the other concerns employees who may work in or enter the area below the scaffold.

- Each **employee on a scaffold** must be protected from falling hand tools, debris, and other small objects, by:
 - **Hardhats**;
 - **Toeboards**, screens, or guardrail systems;
 - **Debris nets or canopy structures** that contain or deflect falling objects; and,
 - **Placement of potential falling objects** away from the edge of the surface from which they may

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fall when the falling objects are too large, heavy or massive to be contained or deflected by any of the above-listed measures.

- Where there is a danger of tools, materials, or equipment falling from a scaffold onto **employees below**, they must be protected by:
 - The area below the scaffold being **barricaded** so employees are not permitted to enter; or
 - **Toeboards** being installed along the edge of platforms more than 10 feet above lower levels.
 - Where tools, materials, or equipment are piled to a height higher than the top edge of the toeboard, they should be prevented from falling by **paneling or screening** extending from the toeboard to the top of the guardrail; or
 - A **guardrail system** shall be installed with openings small enough to **contain the objects**; or
 - A **canopy structure, debris net, or catch platform** strong enough to withstand the impact of the potential falling objects shall be erected over the employees.

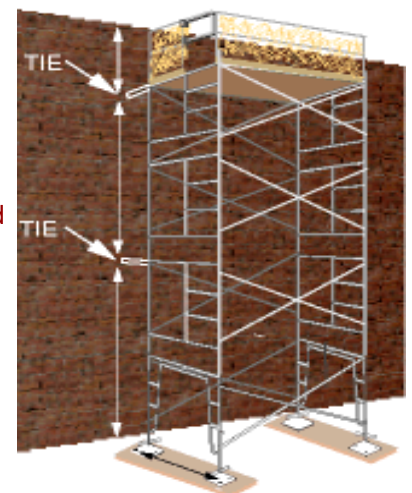
- When **toeboards** are used for **falling object protection**, they must be:
 - Able to **withstand a force of at least 50 pounds** applied in any downward or horizontal direction, at any point along the toeboard.
 - At least **3½ inches high** from the top edge to the level of the walking/working surface.
 - **Securely fastened in place** at the outermost edge of the platform, and not have more than ¼-inch clearance above the walking/working surface.
 - **Solid**, or with openings not over 1 inch.

Keeping Upright

Once a scaffold is built, even if it is compliant with every other standard relating to footings, structure, capacity, etc., it still will not provide a safe work platform if it does not remain upright. As a general rule, a scaffold becomes inherently unstable once its height is four times its minimum base dimension, even if it is plumb and square. Extreme weather or damage to structural components can also affect a scaffold's stability. **Note: Except where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds, as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the Supported Scaffolds module.**

Guys, Ties, and Braces

- When a supported scaffold reaches a height that is more than **four times its minimum base dimension (4:1)**, it must be restrained by



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guys, ties, or braces to **prevent it from tipping.**

- Guys, ties, and braces must be installed at locations where horizontal scaffold components **support both inner and outer legs.**
- Guys, ties, and braces must be installed according to the scaffold manufacturer's recommendations or at the **closest horizontal member to the 4:1 height ratio** and be repeated every 20 vertical feet for narrow scaffolds (3 feet or less in width), and every 26 vertical feet for scaffolds greater than 3 feet in width.
- Ties, guys, braces, or outriggers shall be used to prevent tipping of supported scaffolds bearing **eccentric loads, such as cantilevered work platforms.**

Inspection

- Scaffolds and scaffold components must be inspected for visible defects **before each shift** by a competent person, and **after each occurrence that could affect a scaffold's integrity** (such as being struck by a crane).
- Any part of a scaffold that has been damaged or weakened so that it no longer meets OSHA strength requirements must be **repaired, replaced, braced, or removed from service.**

Moving Scaffolds

Scaffolds may not be **moved horizontally while employees are on them**, unless they have been designed for that purpose by a registered professional engineer.

Weather

- Employees are not permitted to work on or from a scaffold during **storms or high wind**, unless a competent person has determined that it is safe, and those employees are protected by:
 - Personal fall arrest systems, or
 - Wind screens (when windscreens are used the scaffold must be secured against the anticipated wind forces).

Electrical Hazards

Because they may be built in proximity to overhead power lines, and because they are often made of metal, scaffolds can put workers at risk of electrocution. This risk can be removed through proper clearance and maintenance. **Note: Except where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds, as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the**



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Supported Scaffolds module.

Overhead Power Lines

- Scaffolds must not be close enough to overhead power lines that they, or any conductive materials (e.g. building materials, paint roller extensions, scaffold components) that may be handled on them, come **closer than 10 feet to the power line**
 - Exception: Insulated power lines of less than 300 volts have a safe distance of only 3 feet.
- Scaffolds may be closer to overhead power lines than specified above **if such proximity is necessary** for the type of work being done, and if the **power company or electrical system operator has been notified** and has either:
 - De-energized the lines
 - Relocated the lines;
 - Installed protective coverings to prevent accidental contact with the lines.

Portable Electric Tools

- Because metal frame scaffolds are conductive, power tools, cords, etc. that suffers insulation failure can electrify the entire scaffold. This poses a risk of electrocution not just to the worker holding the tool, but to everyone who contacts the scaffold. Therefore, all **portable electric equipment must be protected** by:
 - GFCIs (ground-fault circuit interrupters), and
 - an AEGCP assured equipment grounding conductor program

Personnel Training and Competent Persons

Critical to scaffolding safety are the use of competent persons for the design, erection/dismantling, and maintenance of scaffolds, and trained workers for their use. Therefore, assessing personnel abilities should be a part of all phases of the scaffolding inspection.

Note: Except where indicated, these requirements also apply to manually propelled, pump jack, ladder jack, tube and coupler, and pole scaffolds as well as the specialty scaffolds described in the Supported Scaffolds module.

Design and Erection

- Scaffolds must be **designed by a qualified person**, and be constructed and loaded in accordance with that design
- Scaffolds are to be **erected, moved, dismantled, or altered** only under the **supervision of a competent**



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person qualified in such activities.

- Scaffolds over 125 feet (38.0 m) in height above their base plates shall be designed by a **registered professional engineer**, and shall be constructed and loaded in accordance with such design.

Training

- Trainers must have completed a train-the-trainer class within the last three years from an accredited organization to be considered current. Documentation of training will be submitted to corporate safety manager for approval/acceptance.
- Scaffolds are to be **erected, moved, dismantled, or altered** only by **experienced and trained employees** who have been selected for that work by the competent person. Training must have been completed by a person meeting the requirements above and that training must have been completed within the last three years. Documentation of training will be submitted to corporate safety manager for approval/acceptance.
- Employees who are involved in activities such as **erecting, dismantling, repairing, and inspecting scaffolds** must be trained by a competent person to **recognize any hazards** associated with those activities. Training shall include:
 - The **nature** of scaffold hazards;
 - **Correct procedures** for erecting, disassembling, etc. the type of scaffold in question;
 - The design criteria, maximum intended load capacity, and intended use of the scaffold; and
 - Any other **pertinent requirements**.
- Employees who **perform work while on a scaffold** must be trained by a qualified person meeting the requirements listed above (User Training). Documentation of training will be submitted to the corporate safety manager for approval/acceptance. The training will enable employees to **recognize the hazards** associated with the type of scaffold being used, and to **understand the procedures to control those hazards**. Training shall include:
 - The **nature** of any electrical hazards, fall hazards, and falling object hazards in the work area;
 - The **correct procedures** for dealing with those hazards;
 - The **proper use of the scaffold**, and the **proper handling of materials** on the scaffold;
 - The maximum intended load and the **load-carrying capacity of the scaffold**; and
 - Any other **pertinent requirements**.
- Employees will be retrained when we have reason to believe that the **employee lacks the skill or understanding** to safely erect, use, or dismantle a scaffold. Such **retraining is required** in at least the

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following situations:

- **Changes at the worksite** present a hazard for which an employee has not previously been trained;
- **Changes in the types of scaffolds, fall protection, falling object protection, or other equipment** present a hazard for which an employee has not previously been trained; and
- **Inadequacies in an affected employee's work** indicate that the employee has not retained the necessary proficiency.