

SAFE WORK PRACTICES METAL SCAFFOLDS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: There are various types of metal scaffold and there are right and wrong ways of erecting all of them. The misuse of scaffolding is the cause of numerous serious injuries. Every worker who designs or constructs a scaffold should be competent and know what the manufacturer's specifications are for that type of scaffold.

The scaffold type which will be best suited for the job and capable of withstanding the loads to be imposed on it must be determined before the job begins.

Ensure that:

1. The scaffold you intend to use is the correct one for the job.
2. The location in which the scaffold is to be constructed is level or is capable of presenting secure footing by use of mudsills or some other device.
3. The scaffold will be erected by a competent worker.
4. Legislative and manufacturer's requirements have been complied with.
5. Safe access and egress to both the scaffold and the general work area has been provided.
6. Leveling adjustment screws have not been over extended.
7. Tower scaffolds have outriggers or are guyed and have all component parts secured in place (i.e. cross braces, pins, lateral braces).
8. Scaffold work platforms have perimeter guardrails:
 - Horizontal rail – 0.92 meters to 1.07 meters above the platform;
 - Intermediate rail – horizontal rail midway between scaffold platform and top rail;
 - Toe board – horizontal member at platform level no less than 140 mm in height above the platform level.
9. Scaffold planks are of number one grade materials with maximum spans of 3 meters on light duty and 2.3 meters on heavy duty with a maximum projection beyond the ledger of no more than 300 mm.