

SAFE WORK PRACTICES WOOD 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: The construction of wood scaffold is closely regulated by Legislation. Materials and material dimensions are specified in detail in the OH&S General Safety Regulations.

Because the construction of these scaffolds can vary greatly as to use, shape, location and type of job to be done, they sometimes are built in a haphazard manner. To avoid this, the following safe work practices are minimum:

1. Construction, alteration, designs and removal of wood scaffolds is to be done by competent workers.
2. The material used to construct these scaffolds should be sound, close grained and finished on all four sides.
3. The scaffold must be capable of supporting four (4) times the load that might be imposed on it.
4. All component parts should be tight together and properly fixed to each other.
5. Proper perimeter railing must be set in place; top rail – intermediate rail – toe board.
6. Scaffold work platforms shall be at least 500 millimeters wide for light duty and 1 meter wide for heavy duty scaffolds.
7. When used as a scaffold work platform, planks shall be secured from movement by cleats or by being wired in place.
8. Safe access and egress is to be provided to all work platforms by the use of ladders.
9. Scaffold work platforms shall not span more than three (3) meters on light duty scaffolds or 2.3 meters on heavy duty scaffolds.