

## SCAFFOLDING INSPECTION

### Scaffolding should be inspected:

- After installation or before first use
- At least every week
- Every time after adverse weather conditions occur that could affect the scaffolds structural integrity

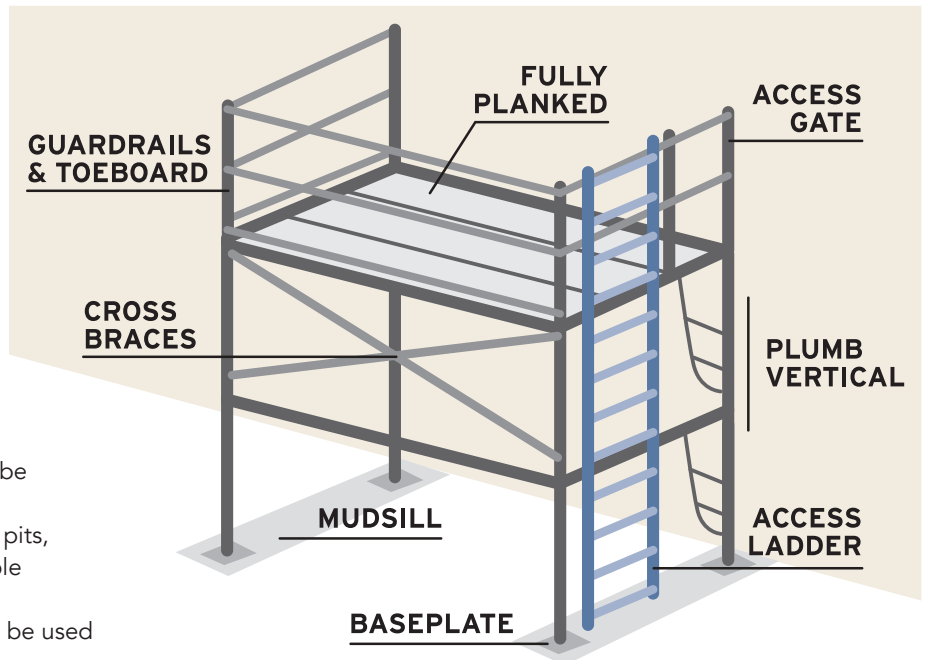
### Scaffolding should be inspected by:

A competent person whose combination of knowledge, training and experience is appropriate for the type and complexity of the scaffold and who has the authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate identified hazards around scaffolds.

## SCAFFOLDING INSPECTION CHECKLIST

### SCAFFOLD BASE & STRUCTURE

- De-energize power lines near scaffolding and ensure there are no power lines, tools or materials within a minimum of 10 feet of the scaffolding.
- Check if the type of scaffold is right for the loads, materials, workers and weather conditions.
- Inspect footings to see if they are level, sound, firm and can support the scaffolding, workers, and material weight.
- Ensure legs, posts, frames and uprights are on baseplates and mudsills (baseplate should be anchored to mudsill).
- Ensure there are no bends, holes, cracks, rust, pits, welding splatter, broken or, and non-compatible parts in the metal components or scaffold.
- Check for safe access: cross braces should not be used as a ladder for access or exit.



### PLANKS

- Inspect wooden planks and ensure there are no cracks or splits greater than ¼ inch long, end splits, several large loose knots, warps greater than ¼ inch, boards and ends with gouges, mold, separated laminate(s), and grain sloping greater than 1 in 12 inches from the long edge. Planks must be scaffold grade lumber or equivalent.
- Planks that deflect 1/60 of the span or 2 inches in a 10-foot wooden plank are damaged and should not be used.
- Ensure planks are close together, with spaces no greater than 1 inch around uprights.
- 10-foot or shorter planks must be 6 to 12 inches over the centerline of the support. Longer planks should not be more than 18 inches over the end.

### PLATFORM

- Ensure that the platform is 14 inches or less away from the wall or 18 inches or less away if plastering/stuccoing.
- Make sure there are guardrails, including mid rails and toe boards on platforms where work is being done.
- Check for workers under the platform and supplement protection from falling objects or barricade the area.
- Ensure that workers always wear hard hats and fall protection when needed.
- Make sure braces, tie-ins and guying is used at each end, vertically and horizontally, and is done according to the scaffold manufacturer's instructions. This will prevent tipping.

## SCAFFOLD INSPECTION TAGS



**Green Tags**  
identify scaffolds  
that are safe for use.



**Yellow Tags**  
identify scaffolds  
which have been  
modified to meet  
work requirements,  
and as a result  
could present a  
hazard to the users.



**Red Tags**  
identify scaffolds  
that are unsafe  
for use.

## GUARDRAILS

The OSHA standard requires employers to protect each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet (3.1 m) above a lower level from falling to that lower level.

- **Guardrail height:** The height of the top rail for scaffolds manufactured and placed in service after January 1, 2000 must be between 38 inches and 45 inches.
- **Cross bracing:** When the crosspoint of cross bracing is used as a top rail, it must be between 38 inches and 48 inches above the work platform.
- **Mid rails:** Mid rails must be installed approximately halfway between the top rail and the platform surface. When a crosspoint of cross bracing is used as a mid rail, it must be between 20 inches and 30 inches above the work platform.

To ensure adequate protection, install guardrails along all open sides and ends before releasing the scaffold for use by employees, other than the erection and dismantling crews.

Guardrails are not required, however:

- When the front end of all platforms are less than 14 inches (36 cm) from the face of the work.
- When outrigger scaffolds are 3 inches (8 cm) or less from the front edge.
- When employees are plastering and lathing 18 inches (46 cm) or less from the front edge.

### Can cross bracing be used instead of guardrails?

Using standard guardrails as the means of fall protection on a scaffold is generally recognized as providing superior protection versus using cross bracing alone. OSHA allows a scaffold's cross brace to take the place of one, but not both, of the guardrails. If the bracing is installed above a mid rail, then the X intersection must be between 38 and 48 inches from the deck to be compliant when taking the place of the top rail. When bracing is used below the top rail, the X must be between 20 to 30 inches from the deck.

## FALL PROTECTION

If an employee is working on a scaffold, the height requirement for fall protection is 10 feet, and this protection usually is provided by a guardrail.

## TOE BOARDS

Where there is a danger of tools, materials, or equipment falling from a scaffold and striking employees below, the following provisions apply:

- The area below the scaffold to which the object can fall shall be barricaded, and employees shall not be permitted to enter the hazard area; or
- A toe board shall be erected along the edge of platforms more than 10 feet above lower levels for a distance sufficient to protect employees below.