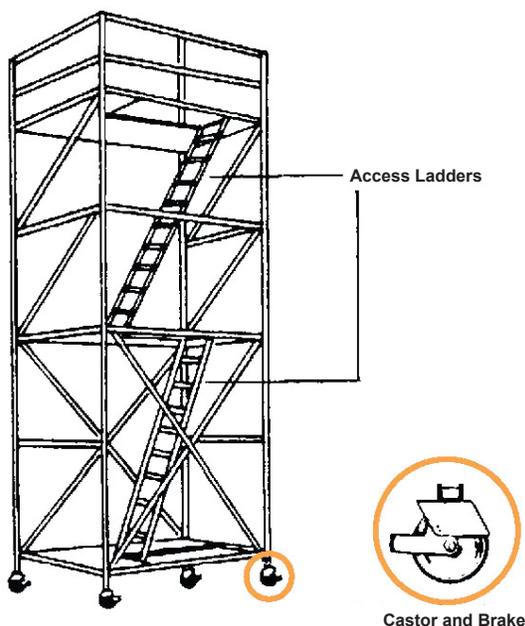


Rolling Scaffolds

Definition

A scaffold is a temporary structure, usually made of metal tubing, which provides support for workers and materials used in construction, maintenance, repair, and demolition work. Scaffolds are either fixed or they can be disassembled. Rolling scaffolds have castors or wheels that give them mobility.

Figure 1
A rolling scaffold



Hazards

The most common hazard associated with rolling scaffolds is that of falling: either the worker may fall from the scaffold, or the scaffold may collapse and fall, injuring the worker and others in the area.

Controls

To prevent falling accidents, ensure that the following controls are in place:

Construction

- If the scaffold is made up of separate sections or frames, these must be pinned together to prevent separation
- The frames must have horizontal and vertical bracing to prevent rocking or twisting
- The castors must be pinned to the frame
- There must be a braking device in each castor (see Figure 1)
- If the platform is made of planks, the planks must be cleated to prevent slippage
- The platform must have handrails, midrails, and toeboards
- Outriggers and/or guy wires must be available for use, where necessary
- The working height of the scaffold must not exceed three times its least lateral dimension (measured at the base), unless it is guyed and stabilized by outriggers

Precautions

Pre-Use

- Note the condition and solidity of the floor surface so that holes, depressions, or uneven surfaces are taken into account
- Check the bracing before use
- Apply the brakes before a worker mounts the scaffold
- Don't extend the adjusting or jacking screws more than 30cm (12")
- If necessary, secure the scaffold at vertical intervals to prevent lateral movement

Use

- Use the proper means of access to the platform – don't climb on the frame
- Never overreach from the platform – move the scaffold
- Never ride on a moving scaffold
- Get help when moving a scaffold

Maintenance

The physical condition of scaffolds is very important for the safety of workers. Establish a regular inspection and maintenance schedule for scaffolds. Inspections should include:

- structural integrity of bracing and uprights
- condition of brakes, castors, outriggers, platform, ladders, and rails

Since the condition of floors or other surfaces affects the stability of the scaffold, they must be in good repair and level.

Training

Training of persons who work on scaffolds is very important. Anyone using a scaffold must be made aware of the above controls and work practices.

Those working nearby should also be made aware of possible hazards, such as blockage of aisles, tools falling from the platform, and obstructions of vision.

Legislation

Regulations for Construction Projects (O. Reg. 213/91):

- s.128 to 136: Construction and design

Regulations for Industrial Establishments (Reg. 851):

- s.13 & 14: Guardrails
- s.11 & 15: Floors

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Revised: May 2008

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