

# SCAFFOLDS PROGRAM



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### **SCOPE**

The purpose of this program is to protect R.W. LaPine, Inc. workers whom may be involved in working on scaffolds. This program shall follow CFR 1925.450 Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration standard.

### **COMPETENT PERSON**

- Required by OSHA
  - 29 CFR 1926.451(f)(3) requires inspections by competent person before each work shift and after occurrences which could affect scaffold structural integrity
- Competent person
  - Recognize hazards
  - Authorized to take corrective action
  - Inspect scaffolding and components prior to each work shift
  - Determine feasibility of providing fall protection and access
  - Evaluate connections to support load and prevent swaying
  - Determine structural soundness when intermixing components manufacturer
  - Train erectors and dismantlers to recognize work hazards

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 10 foot trigger height for fall protection on scaffolds
- 36 inch minimum guardrail height where fall arrest systems are primary fall protection
- 38 inch minimum guardrail height where guardrail is primary fall protection
- Platform construction
  - Fully planked and decked
  - No more than 1” gap between adjacent units and platform and uprights
  - Max openings between platform and uprights 9 -1/2”
  - Platform and walkways at least 18” wide

**Platform Construction Continued:**

- Each abutted end shall rest on a separate support surface
- Overlap platforms not be less than 12” only over supports unless restrained to prevent movement
- On direction changes, platforms that rests on a bearer at an angle other than a right angle must be laid first
- Platforms that rest at right angles over the same bearer laid second
- No paint on wood platforms, except edges that may be marked for identification
- Fully planked between from upright and guardrail
- No mixed components, unless compatible and integrity maintained
- No modification of mixed components unless approved by competent person
- No components or dissimilar metals unless competent person determines galvanic action will not reduce strength

**SAFETY RULES**

- Guardrails are required for your protection. Never use a scaffold that does not have proper guardrails installed.
- Scaffold platforms must be fully and properly planked. The planks must fully cover the platform to create a safe working surface. Gaps between the planks and the uprights must not be greater than 1 inch wide.
- Additionally, scaffolding planks must be maintained in good condition. They must not be broken, cracked, warped or painted.
- To avoid falls and other hazardous conditions, you should only work from scaffolds that are properly constructed and supported. If the scaffold does not have a stable foundation, then the scaffold may move or shift causing either the scaffold or you to fall.

### **ACCESS**

When scaffold platforms are more than 2 feet above or below a point of access, portable ladders, hook-on ladders, attachable ladders, or other means of safe access must be provided. Other types of access may include stair towers, ramps, or walkways.

When using portable hook-on ladders, they must be positioned so they do not tip the scaffold over.

Additionally, the spacing of the ladder rungs must be 16  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches or less and have a minimum length of 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Following these guidelines will allow you to safely access scaffolding and reduce your risk of falls.

- Must have safe access
- Cross-braces prohibited as means of access
- Bottom rung no more than 24' high
- Rest platforms required at 35' intervals

### **OVERHEAD CLEARANCE**

Scaffolds must maintain a minimum of 10 feet safety distance from any exposed overhead line from 300v to 50kv unless de-energized or protective coverings are installed.

### **FALLING OBJECT PROTECTION**

When working on or near scaffolding, worker shall be required to wear hard hats meeting ANSI standards.

Protection of workers and others in the area from falling debris or tools can be achieved by:

- Toe-boards
- Canopies
- Barricades

### **TRAINING**

- Each employee who works on scaffold shall be trained to recognize and avoid hazards including (as applicable):
  - Electrical hazards,
  - Fall hazards, and
  - Falling object hazards in the work area
- Proper use of the scaffold
- Proper procedures for fall protection, and falling object protection systems
- Maximum intended load
- Any applicable regulations
- Each employee who is involved in erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining, or inspecting a scaffold trained by a competent person to recognize any hazards associated with the work.

### **RE-TRAINING**

- When the employer has reason to believe that an employee lacks the skill or understanding needed for safe work involving the erection, use or dismantling of scaffolds, the employer shall retrain each such employee so that the requisite proficiency is regained. Includes:
  - New hazards
  - New equipment
  - Lack of retention or proficiency

### **SCAFFOLD TAGS**

If defects are found on the scaffold by the competent person, or any employee making this observation, tags shall be placed indicating the scaffold is out of service. Employees shall be instructed to comply with all tags. Unsafe equipment or conditions must be tagged out by a Competent Person, and must be complied with.