



MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Construction Safety & Health Division

Suspended Scaffold Safety

Suspended scaffolds make working at heights easier, but require more comprehensive training and preparation to ensure they are erected and used properly. Suspended scaffolds are frequently used on structures that are either too tall or, due to the building design, prevents the use of portable ladders or other types of scaffolding. [Part 12 - Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms](#) has requirements that pertain to suspended scaffolds in Rule 1229 and Rules 1210 through 1219.

Each suspended scaffold and its installation are unique. The employer must determine what type of suspended scaffold and connection can be used that is in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Direct connections, outrigger beams, cornice hooks, or parapet clamps are commonly used. A competent person designated by each affected employer must evaluate the connections and determine any deficiencies. A *professional engineer* is required to design the connections for multipoint adjustable suspended scaffolds.

Key Points when using Suspended Scaffolds:

- Fall protection anchorages for employees must be properly installed **separately** from the suspended scaffold support. Additionally, guardrails are to be installed. Reference [Part 12 - Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms](#) and [Part 45 - Fall Protection](#).
- Direct connections to roofs and floors, and counterweights used, shall be capable of resisting not less than four times the tipping moment imposed by the scaffold operating at either the rated load of the hoist or not less than 1.5 times the tipping moment imposed by the scaffold operating at the stall load of the hoist, whichever is greater.
- Counterweights shall be made of non-flowable materials, secured by mechanical means, and loaded to the proper capacity.
- Install tiebacks perpendicular to the face of the building or structure, or install opposing angle tiebacks. Single tiebacks installed at an angle are prohibited.
- Secure the tiebacks to a structurally sound anchorage on the building or structure. Do not use standpipes, vents, electrical conduit or other piping systems.
- Properly install and inspect all the cables used for the suspended scaffold and for fall protection systems.
- Scaffolds and scaffold components shall be inspected before each work shift by a competent person for any visible defects and after any occurrence that may affect the structural integrity of the scaffold.
- A scaffold and its components shall be capable of supporting, without failure, not less than 4 times the maximum intended load.
- Never overload the scaffold! Limit the number of workers and equipment to the specific type of scaffold.
- Protect the area below for potential of falling objects.

For additional training and assistance, please contact the Consultation, Education and Training Division at www.michigan.gov/cetrca.

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
530 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30645 • LANSING, MI 48909-8145
OVERNIGHT MAIL ADDRESS: 525 WEST ALLEGAN STREET, LANSING, MI 48933
www.michigan.gov/miosha • 517-284-7680
(Revised 08/24/2015)

