

MIOSHA Fact Sheet



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, prevent the use of portable ladders or other types of scaffolding. Construction Standard [Part 12, Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms](#) (Part 12), has requirements that pertain to scaffolds generally in Rules 1210-1218, and suspended scaffolds in Rules 1233-1238, as well as 452(o)-(q).

Each suspended scaffold and its installation is unique. The employer must determine what type of suspended scaffold and connection can be used and confirm 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 and Construction Standard [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.

Employers are encouraged to contact the MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division at 517-284-7680 if they have questions regarding jobsite health and safety or compliance issues. The MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division provides training and onsite audit services for residential and commercial builders at the employer's request, free of charge. The CET Division can be contacted directly at www.michigan.gov/cetrea, or at 517-284-7720.

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.



Construction Safety and Health Division
530 W. Allegan Street • P.O. Box 30645 • Lansing, MI 48909-8145
www.michigan.gov/miosha • 517-284-7680
CSHD Fact Sheet #038 • (Revised 9/1/2023)

