

CODE OF SAFE PRACTICES FOR SUSPENDED POWERED SCAFFOLDS

It shall be the responsibility of all employers and users to read and comply with the following common sense guidelines which are designed to promote safety in the erection and use of suspended powered scaffolds. These guidelines are not all-inclusive nor do they supplant or replace other additional safety and precautionary measures to cover usual or unusual conditions. If these guidelines conflict in any way with any state, local or federal statute or governmental regulation, said statute or regulation shall supersede these guidelines and it shall be the responsibility of each employer and user to comply therewith and also to be knowledgeable and understand all state, local or federal statutes or governmental regulations pertaining to suspended powered scaffolding.

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. Post these safety guidelines in a conspicuous place and be sure that all persons who erect, use, locate, or dismantle suspended scaffold systems are fully aware of them.
- B. NEVER TAKE CHANCES!** If in doubt regarding safety or use of suspended scaffolds, consult your scaffold supplier.
- C. FOLLOW ALL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS as well as all state, local and federal codes, ordinances and regulations, pertaining to suspended scaffolding.
- D. Survey the job site for hazards such as exposed electrical wires, obstructions that could overload or tip the suspended scaffold when it is raised or lowered, unguarded roof edges or openings, inadequate or missing tieback anchorages or the need for overhead protection where exposure to falling objects exists. These conditions must be corrected before installing or using suspended scaffold systems.
- E. INSPECT ALL EQUIPMENT BEFORE EACH USE. Never use any equipment that is damaged or defective in any way. Tag damaged or defective equipment and remove it from the job site.
- F. ALWAYS USE FALL ARREST EQUIPMENT** when using suspended scaffolds . (See Section E for further details.)
- G. Erect, use, and dismantle suspended powered scaffold equipment in accordance with design and/or manufacturer's recommendations.
- H. Do not erect, dismantle, or alter suspended scaffold systems unless under the supervision of a qualified person.
- I. DO NOT ABUSE, MISUSE, OR USE SUSPENDED SCAFFOLD EQUIPMENT for purposes or in ways for which it was not intended.
- J. USERS MUST BE TRAINED on how to safely operate equipment and how to handle emergency situations. If in doubt, consult a qualified person.
- K. ERECTED SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDS SHOULD BE CONTINUOUSLY INSPECTED by the user to ensure that they are maintained in a safe condition. Report any unsafe condition to your supervisor.
- L. CARE **MUST BE TAKEN WHEN** OPERATING AND STORING EQUIPMENT DURING WINDY CONDITIONS.
- M. POWERED PLATFORMS MUST NEVER BE OPERATED NEAR LIVE POWER LINES unless proper precautions are taken. Consult the power service company for advice.
- N. DO NOT WORK ON SCAFFOLDS if you feel dizzy, unsteady in any way or are impaired in any way by drugs or any other substance.

RIGGING GUIDELINES

- A. WHEN RIGGING ON EXPOSED ROOFS OR FLOORS WEAR FALL PREVENTION EQUIPMENT. WHEN RIGGING FROM OVERHEAD SUPPORTS, SUCH AS BRIDGES, BEAMS, ETC., WEAR FALL ARREST EQUIPMENT.**
- B. Roof hooks, parapet clamps, outrigger beams, or other supporting devices, including tiebacks and their anchorages, must be capable of supporting the rated load of the hoist with a safety factor of 4.
- C. Verify that the building or structure will support the suspended loads with a safety factor of at least 4.
- D. Overhead rigging, including counterweights, must be secured from unintentional movement in any direction.
- E. Counterweights used with outrigger beams must be of a non-flowable material and fastened to the beam.
- F. Outrigger beams that do not use counterweights must be installed and secured on the roof structure with devices specifically designed for that purpose.
- G. Tie back all transportable rigging devices with wire rope and hardware that has strength equal to the hoist rope.
- H. Install tiebacks at right angles to the face of the building and secure without slack to a structurally sound portion of movement.
- I. RIG SO THAT SUSPENSION POINTS ARE DIRECTLY ABOVE THE HOISTING MACHINES.
- J. The platform must be secured to prevent swaying. Do not tie it to window cleaning anchors.

III. WIRE ROPE AND HARDWARE GUIDELINES.

- A. Use only wire rope and attachments as specified by the hoisting machine manufacturer. Do not use wire rope that is

- kinked, birdcaged, corroded, undersized, or damaged in any way.
- B. Be sure that wire rope is long enough to reach to the lowest possible landing.
 - C. Clean, lubricate and handle wire rope in accordance with the wire rope or hoist manufacturer's instructions.
 - D. Coil and uncoil wire rope in accordance with the wire rope **or** hoist manufacturer's instructions in order to avoid kinks and damage.
 - E. Use thimbles at all wire rope suspension terminations.
 - F. Use J-Type clamps or swaged fittings to fasten wire rope. **DO NOT USE U-CLAMPS.**
 - G. Tighten wire rope clamps in accordance with the clamp manufacturer's instructions.
 - H. Wire ropes used with traction hoists must have prepared ends in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.
 - I. **INSPECT WIRE ROPE DURING EACH ASCENT AND DESCENT.** Do not expose wire rope to fire, undue heat, corrosive atmosphere, chemicals, or to passage of electrical currents or to damage by tools or handling.

IV. POWER SUPPLY GUIDELINES.

- A. **BE SURE YOUR POWER SUPPLY CONFORMS TO HOIST MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.**
- B. GROUND ALL **ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCES, POWER CORD CONNECTIONS** and protect with circuit breakers.
- C. Use power cords or air hoses of proper size that are long enough for the job.
- D. Power cord or air hose connections must be restrained to prevent their separation.
- E. Tie off power cords or air hoses to the suspended scaffold to prevent them **from falling.**
- F. Protect power cords or air hoses at sharp edges.
- G. Remember, air hoists require clean, lubricated air.

V. FALL ARREST EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES.

- A. Each person on a suspended powered scaffold must be attached to a fall arrest system at all times.
- B. Each lifeline must be fastened to a separate anchorage.
- C. When wrapping lifelines around structural members the lines must be protected and a suitable anchorage system must be used.
- D. Protect lifelines at sharp corners to prevent chafing.
- E. Rig fall arrest systems to prevent free fall in excess of six feet.
- F. Lifelines must be suspended freely without contact with structural members or building facade.
- G. Use a lifeline size and construction that is compatible with fall arrester and complies with applicable safety codes.
- H. **BE SURE FALL ARRESTER IS INSTALLED ON THE LIFELINE IN THE PROPER DIRECTION ABOVE YOUR HEAD** and in accordance with **the manufacturer's recommendations.**
- I. Use a body support device that is properly sized and fitted.
- J. Be sure body support device has a lanyard attached to the D-ring **at the center of the back.**

VI. SOME ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES.

- A. **USE ALL EQUIPMENT AND ALL DEVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.**
- B. Do not overload, modify, or substitute equipment.
- C. Before commencing work operations pre-load wire rope and equipment with the maximum working load, then retighten rigging clamps to manufacturer's recommendations.
- D. Be sure platform and cages have a proper guardrail system.
- E. Secure stirrups no less than six inches from the end of the platform.
- F. All components must be securely fastened to prevent them from falling off the platform.
- G. Use roller bumpers or buffers to prevent damage to the structure or equipment.
- H. Use care to prevent damage to equipment by corrosive or other damaging substances.
- I. Clean and service equipment regularly.
- J. **ALWAYS MAINTAIN AT LEAST (4) FOUR WRAPS OF WIRE ROPE ON DRUM TYPE HOISTS.**
- K. Traction hoists must have wire rope that is long enough to reach from the highest point of support to the lowest possible landing, plus reeving lengths.
- L. Do not join platforms unless the installation was designed for that purpose.
- M. **DO NOT MOVE SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDS HORIZONTALLY WHEN OCCUPIED.**
- N. When re-rigging for another drop be sure sufficient wire rope is available before moving the suspended scaffold system horizontally.
- O. **WHEN WELDING FROM SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDS:**

- I. **Be sure platform is grounded** to structure.
- 2. Insulate wire rope above** and below **the platform to protect from damage by the welding torch** or electrode.
- 3. Insulate wire rope at suspension point and be sure wire rope does not contact structure along its** entire length.

These Safety Guidelines (Code of Safe Practices) set forth some common sense procedures for safely erecting, dismantling and using suspended scaffolding equipment. Since equipment and scaffolding systems differ, reference must always be made to the instructions and procedures of the supplier and/or manufacturer of the equipment.

Since field conditions vary, and are beyond the control of the Scaffold Industry Association and the Scaffolding, Shoring & Forming Institute, safe and proper use of scaffolding is the sole responsibility of the employer and user.

Form No. 0108S

Copyright **Scaffold Industry Association, Inc and Scaffolding, Shoring & Forming Institute,**

Inc. July 1991