



SUSPENDED POWERED SCAFFOLDING SECTION

SSFI TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Wind Speeds and Swing Stages

A powered suspended platform or swing stage on a building or structure is at risk to the weather. Wind can channel between buildings to reach speeds higher than when measured in open space or at ground-level. Wind speeds will differ depending on what side of the building or at what height the suspended platform is located.

The type of work being performed and the type of swing stage in use is critical in determining when it is too windy to operate the swing stage safely.

The competent person on site who understands the work process is the individual best able to assess site conditions and to determine site-specific conditions for halting work from swingstages due to high winds.

If a hazard assessment specific to the physical location and to the work performed is not available, the Scaffolding Shoring & Forming Institute recommends a competent person should consider stopping work if wind exceeds 25 mph (40 kmh) for two point systems and 20 mph (32 kmh) for single point systems. Other factors, such as materials that could create a sail effect (windows, plywood, etc.), location of work, etc., should also be considered.

It is the responsibility of the operator(s) to understand what the wind speed is and what other site-specific conditions would cause work to stop. A device that is easily available from catalog houses and that may assist is a handheld sensor called an anemometer.

At the time of this bulletin release, the federal OSHA standard does not call for halting work on temporarily installed platforms at a specific wind speed. As state or local regulations may vary, check with local authorities.

This Technical Bulletin was prepared by members of the SSFI Suspended Powered Scaffolding Section. SSFI is a trade association comprising manufacturers of scaffolding, shoring, forming, and suspended scaffolding. The institute focuses on engineering and safety aspects of scope products.

This bulletin does not purport to be all-inclusive nor to supplant or replace other additional safety and precautionary measures to cover usual or unusual conditions. If this bulletin conflicts in any way with a state, local, federal or other government statute or regulation, said statute or regulation shall supersede this bulletin and it shall be the responsibility of each user to comply therewith. This bulletin has been developed as an aid to users of suspended powered scaffolding equipment.

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