



Erecting, altering and dismantling scaffolding

Part 1: Prefabricated steel modular scaffolding

A guide on health and safety standards

November 2010

Disclaimer

This publication may contain occupational health and safety and workers compensation information. It may include some of your obligations under the various legislations that WorkCover NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website (www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Industry Solutions Program is a research and development initiative undertaken by WorkCover NSW that works with industry to devise practical solutions to problematic issues in an industry. It recognises the need for assistance in some industry sectors to overcome particular difficulties or challenges in order to improve workplace safety.

Solutions to safety issues are developed in partnership with industry within a three-month period and released for industry-wide implementation. Within 12 months, an evaluation is conducted to determine the effectiveness and practicality of the solutions. If necessary, further refinements, including additional solutions, are included after the evaluation.

There have been a number of incidents where lack of fall prevention systems contributed to worker injuries and there were limited practical solutions to safely erect, alter and dismantle prefabricated steel modular scaffolding – hence this guide was developed in 2008. A review of the guide was completed in 2009.

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This guide provides practical guidance for those erecting, altering and dismantling scaffolding, and for principal contractors, employers, suppliers of scaffolds and others involved in using prefabricated steel modular scaffolding. Occupational health and safety regulations require the control of risk to health and safety. Following this guide is a means to achieve such compliance.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guide is to provide guidance to the scaffolding industry to safely erect, alter and dismantle prefabricated steel modular scaffolding for commercial and residential buildings.

While steel is the dominant material used in the manufacture of prefabricated modular scaffolding, the concepts and procedures in this guide also apply to prefabricated modular scaffolds manufactured from other materials. However, 'Appendix A – Scaffold design limitations' only applies to prefabricated steel modular scaffolding.

The concepts within this guide differ from traditional scaffold erection methods, which are no longer considered acceptable. These concepts should be incorporated into scaffolding manufacturer or supplier information, and erectors' safe work method statements.

There are risks associated with scaffolders falling through and from the scaffold. To minimise these risks, this standard requires scaffolders to install and work from fully planked platforms at vertical intervals of between 2 and 3 m (2 m where practicable), and to install guardrails and mid-rails in advance of the decking. The fully planked platforms are to remain in place until the scaffold is dismantled.

If the work activity or building design prevents fully planked platforms at 2 m intervals, eg a façade or building profile that requires the working platforms to be more than 2 m intervals for the work to be carried out – a larger interval up to 3 m may be used.

For some applications the configurations of the structure or equipment for which the scaffolding is to be installed makes it not practicable to follow the principle of installing fully planked platforms at 2 or 3 m vertical intervals. In such instances alternative safe work methods must be developed to provide an equivalent level of safety.

3. SCOPE

This guide covers the erecting, altering and dismantling of prefabricated steel modular scaffolding founded on the ground or another solid surface.

Fully decked scaffolds over 20 m in height may exceed the design strength of the system and the design should be verified by the manufacturer, supplier or an engineer competent in scaffold design.

There may be prefabricated modular steel scaffolding designs (component or site-specific configuration) that require specific erection methods. For example:

- scaffolds that require specific engineering designs, such as hung scaffolds, cantilevered scaffolds, loading platforms, birdcage scaffolds or scaffolds where the loads from one bay are transferred to the adjoining standards, eg spur scaffolds or scaffolds incorporating an access opening
- scaffolds where the fully planked platforms are installed at greater than 3 m vertical intervals.

In such situations, table 1 and the generic work sequence may not apply. However, the alternative methods must provide equivalent safety to those specified in this standard.

4. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this guide, the following definitions apply:

Australian Standard	a document published by Standards Australia.
base lift	the first level of transoms and ledgers above the jacks.
closed platform	a platform that is constructed and that is capable of functioning as a working platform, but is temporarily closed to any loading or access, in accordance with table 1.
erection platform	a temporary platform that is placed on the scaffold or temporarily constructed as part of the scaffold to assist with the installation (or removal) of the standards, transoms, ledgers, guardrails and mid-rails for the platform above. Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 show various examples of a temporary erection platform.
hop-up bracket (platform bracket)	a bracket that is attached to a scaffold to enable a platform to be placed adjacent to a bay of an independent scaffold.
must	indicates that the requirements are mandatory under the occupational health and safety legislation.
principal contractor	a person who is, under clause 210 of the OHS Regulation, for the time being, appointed or taken to be the principal contractor for the construction work.
safe work method statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes how work is to be carried out • identifies the work activities assessed as having safety risks • identifies the safety risks • describes the control measures that will be applied to the work activities • includes a description of the equipment used in the work, the standards and codes to be complied with, the qualifications of the personnel doing the work and the training required to do the work.
scaffold standard	a vertical structural member of the scaffold that transmits a load to a supporting structure.
should	indicates a recommendation to do something that is not a mandatory requirement under the occupational health and safety legislation.
solid surface	a surface with adequate stiffness and strength to sustain imposed loads from the scaffold.
temporary edge protection	a guardrail and midrail or proprietary system installed to provide fall protection for scaffolders in advance of the placement (or after removal) of the permanent edge protection.

tie bar	a member fixed to the cantilevered end of a pair of hop-up brackets to prevent the brackets from spreading and the planks from becoming dislodged.
toeboard	a scaffold plank or purpose-designed component fixed at the edge of a platform to prevent material from falling off the platform.
working face	the face of a building or structure at which the scaffold has been erected to enable work to be carried out at some stage of the project.
working platform	a platform on a scaffold, positioned at a work location for supporting personnel, equipment and materials, and used to provide a working area.

5. CONTROL MEASURES FOR WORKING PLATFORMS

There should be a system in place to limit the number of platforms permitted as working platforms, and to limit the respective platform ratings, to prevent the scaffold being overloaded.

Possible systems include:

- closing off platforms at the access points by physical means
- placing signs at the access points to each platform, advising if closed or indicating the duty rating of a working platform
- assigning an on-site scaffold coordinator to the relevant contractors, to control the use of various platforms, or sections of platforms
- designating who is to use the scaffold at any given time.

Principal contractors must clearly identify in their site-specific occupational health and safety (OHS) management plan those responsible for implementing the control measures.

The system should also:

- include in the site induction the control measures and the names of those persons responsible for implementing the controls
- have means to identify working platforms that are closed – this can be discussed at regular toolbox meetings
- have means to monitor and review the control measures regularly – if the control measures are not effective, they should be modified, and records of the monitoring and modifications should be kept.

Table 1 outlines the permitted number and ratings of platforms for various scaffold heights. For scaffolds with greater structural capacity than given by the design limitations in appendix A, the supplier may provide a revised version of table 1 based on an engineering review of their specific scaffold.

6. ERECTING, ALTERING OR DISMANTLING

Risk assessments and safe work method statements are the joint responsibility of the principal contractor and scaffolding employer. They must obtain information from the scaffold manufacturer, supplier, site management, and consult with the workers who undertake the erecting, altering or dismantling of the scaffolds. This information must be considered when preparing site-specific safe work method statements.

For safe completion of the work, consider the following:

- Pass scaffold items – do not throw them.
- The scaffolder must work from a safe position when installing edge protection for the platform above, eg by:
 - standing on an erection platform with edge protection (see figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 for various examples of erection platforms)
 - erecting temporary edge protection from the work platform below (see figure 5 for an example of proprietary temporary edge protection) and working behind it to install or remove the permanent edge protection.

Note: Sections 6.1 and 6.2 provide design criteria for temporary edge protection and erection platforms.

- The scaffolder should be supported on a fully planked platform when installing the platform immediately above, except for platform spacings above 2 m where another purpose-made erection platform may be required for platform installation.
- The fully planked platforms should be nominally 2 m apart, vertically, and remain in place until the scaffold is dismantled.
- The first platform can be up to 3 m above the ground or supporting surface, except for the access bay.
- Safe access must be provided up to the first platform and between platforms on the scaffold.
- Risks from overhead power lines must be assessed and controlled – see WorkCover’s *Code of practice: Work near overhead power lines*.

6.1 DESIGN CRITERIA FOR ERECTION PLATFORMS

Erection platforms should comply with the criteria given below.

Type of erection platform	Criteria
<p>Ladder-based erection platforms (for scaffolding platform spacing of up to 3 m, ie erection platform max 2 m in height)</p>	<p>Load rating: minimum 120 kg.</p> <p>Stiles: minimum spacing 350 mm.</p> <p>Non-slip feet: must comply with clause 2.5.3 of AS/NZS: 1892 part 1 or 3.</p> <p>Platform area: minimum 350 mm wide x 300 mm deep, including the ladder rung if it is at the same level as the platform.</p> <p>Unless the erection platform complies with the stability requirements of section 5 of AS/NZS: 1892 part 1 or 3 (clauses 5.2 to 5.4), means should be provided to secure the platform to the scaffold, eg hooking onto the guardrail.</p> <p>For erection platforms up to 1.2 m in height, incorporate a built-in mid-rail on the three non-access sides. For single ladder types the continuing stiles are considered as mid-rails.</p> <p>For erection platforms between 1.2 m and 2 m in height, incorporate guardrails on the three non-access sides.</p>
<p>Erection platforms supported on ledgers/ guardrails (suitable for scaffolding platform spacing of up to 2 m)</p>	<p>Load rating: minimum 120 kg.</p> <p>Erection platform area: minimum 500 mm x 600 mm.</p> <p>On scaffolding edge sides, incorporate a built-in mid-rail.</p>
<p>Scaffold planks supported on temporary transoms (suitable for scaffolding platform spacing of up to 2 m)</p>	<p>Platform area: minimum 2 x 225 mm wide scaffold planks.</p>

6.2 DESIGN CRITERIA FOR TEMPORARY EDGE PROTECTION

Temporary edge protection must meet the strength requirements for guardrails and mid-rails specified in Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1576 *Scaffolding – Part 1: General requirements* and should be designed to allow the installation and removal of the permanent guardrails whilst it is in position. The manufacturer should provide operating instructions.

6.3 GENERIC WORK SEQUENCE – SCAFFOLD ERECTING AND DISMANTLING FOR 2 M VERTICAL PLATFORM INTERVALS

Where work methods differ from the generic work sequence below alternative methods must provide an equivalent level of safety to those specified in this guide.

Task	Activity
Break the job down into steps	
Base out scaffold and erect base lift and first lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent unauthorised access to scaffold area. • One scaffolder holds standards, while another places transoms and ledgers. • Adjust screw jacks to level the scaffold. • Erect transoms and ledgers for the first lift. • Erect planks from below for the first lift.
Complete first lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install access stairway or ladder to platform for the first lift. • If access is by stairway, ensure the stair access bay is erected with the run of the scaffold. • Install edge protection comprising guardrail, mid-rail and toeboard or mesh panels to first lift.
Erect next lift from a platform	<p>Working from a fully planked platform on the first lift, install standards (where the standard joint is 1 to 1.5 m above the platform level), transoms, ledgers and hop-ups for the next lift above.</p> <p>Where using erection platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Place an erection platform on the scaffold – see figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 for erection platform options. – Working from the erection platform, erect standards (where the standard joint is 1 to 1.5 m above the erection platform level), mid-rails and guardrails for the lift above. – Standing on the working platform (or an erection platform for lifts of 2.5 to 3 m), place planks within the transoms to form the above working platform. – Install ladder or stairway access to working platform above. – Access the above working platform. – Install toeboards (or other systems to prevent objects falling).

Task Break the job down into steps	Activity
	<p>Where using temporary edge protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Install temporary edge protection for platform above – see figure 5. – Install transoms and ledgers for platform above. – Standing on the working platform (or an erection platform for lifts of 2.5 to 3 m), place planks within the transoms to form the above working platform. – Install ladder or stairway access to working platform above. – Access the above working platform. – Install next standards, guardrails and mid-rails. – Install toeboards (or other systems to prevent objects falling). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaffold should be erected as close as practicable to the working face. Where the scaffold is greater than 225 mm from the working face, install guardrails and mid-rails to the inner face standards.
Erect next lifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless a specific engineering design is provided, fix the first row of ties no more than 4 m above the ground. Do not allow a scaffold to free stand more than 4 m above the ground or a row of ties. • Secure objects or remove unsecured objects from the scaffold. • Repeat erection sequence as per previous task.
Dismantle scaffold	<p>General precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access the scaffold platform from a ladder or stair access – do not climb the standards, ledgers and transoms. • Maintain a tidy work area. • Do not overload the scaffold bays – progressively remove scaffolding equipment from platforms and stack it neatly on the ground. • Do not leave loose materials on platforms. • Do not throw down any materials or scaffolding equipment. • Remove chain wire mesh and shade cloth while working from a fully planked platform. • Work with a guardrail in place when removing and passing mesh panels down. • Work from a fully planked platform below when dismantling hop-up brackets, tie bars and planks. • Do not allow an unsheeted scaffold to free stand more than 4 m or a sheeted scaffold more than 2 m above the highest tie remaining in place. • Before lifting a toeboard, ensure the adjacent plank is held in place.

Task Break the job down into steps	Activity
	<p>Dismantling sequence</p> <p>Note: Follow the below dismantling sequence if you are using erection platforms. If you are using a temporary edge protection system, modify the dismantling sequence to suit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access the top platform by stairway or ladder. • Start dismantling from an end bay. • Remove chain wire mesh and shade cloth, or mesh panels, from the level to be dismantled or from the whole scaffold if not required during the dismantling process. • Move down to the platform below. • Dismantle top platform planks. • Working from an erection platform on the fully planked platform, dismantle guardrails, mid-rails, ledgers, transoms and standards from the level above. • Step off the erection platform. • Dismantle the hop-up platform above, if in place. • Remove not more than three planks (ensure at least two planks remain) to enable the dismantled materials to be passed down to the next level (where they are to be temporarily stacked or removed from the scaffold). • If removing dismantled materials progressively down through the scaffold, ensure that the gaps created are not directly below each other and that planks are replaced when a gap is not being used to lower materials. • Remove ties progressively as the scaffold is dismantled. • Progressively repeat this procedure until dismantling can be completed from the ground.

6.4 GENERIC WORK SEQUENCE – SPECIFIC TASKS

Task	Activity
Break the job down into steps	
Raise the platform 1 m from a fully planked platform (this applies to platforms five planks wide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing within the scaffold bay and behind the temporary edge protection, install the mid-rail and guardrail for the platform above. • If mesh guard is being used, raise the mesh guard to its new location for the 1 m work platform. • The scaffolder on the work platform removes the internal plank from the work platform (the board closest to the building) and places it on the transoms for the lift above. • Repeat sequentially until the last two planks remain. • The scaffolder accesses the raised deck. • Another scaffolder, working from the fully planked platform below, passes the remaining two planks to the scaffolder above. • The scaffolder places the planks on the transoms, completing the raised platform. • Install toeboards (or other systems to prevent objects falling). <p>Note: If a three-plank platform is used, an alternative method must be devised.</p>
Lower the 1 m platform (this applies to platforms five planks wide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse the raising sequence.
Install ties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install ties from a fully planked platform. • Check with site management that the supporting structure has sufficient strength to withstand the forces imposed by the scaffold when the tie is connected – ie minimum 615 kg push in or pull out per tie.
Install anchors for ties (where used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the structure and material to which the drilled-in anchors are to be applied, to confirm its suitability for the application. • Install anchors in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
Erect and move hop-up brackets and tie bars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect or move hop-up brackets, tie bars and planks from the fully planked platform below.
Install access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect stairways and ladders progressively from the base of the scaffold. • Ensure that the top of any ladder extends not less than 900 mm above the highest platform served by the ladder - otherwise provide a suitable handhold to this height. • Ensure that suitable edge protection is fitted at the opening in each platform served by the ladder within the scaffold bay. • Secure ladders to prevent movement.

Task	Activity
Break the job down into steps	
Fix containment sheeting, eg chain wire mesh and shade cloth (where used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix containment sheeting when working from a fully planked platform with edge protection. • Fix containment sheeting securely to the scaffold at every platform level and at the top and bottom of the scaffold. For shade cloth fix at 1200 mm centres (maximum), vertically and horizontally. • Fill all gaps with similar material. • Ensure containment sheeting extends at least 1 m above the top-most platform. • Do not allow any sheeted scaffold to free stand more than 2 m above the highest tie remaining in place.
Erect mesh panels (where used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect mesh panels when working from a fully planked platform with edge protection. • Gaps between adjoining mesh panels and standards must not be greater than 25 mm, measured horizontally. • Fill any larger gaps between panels with similar material. • Do not allow any scaffold fitted with mesh panels to free stand more than 2 m above the highest tie remaining in place.

6.5 ERECTION PLATFORM OPTIONS

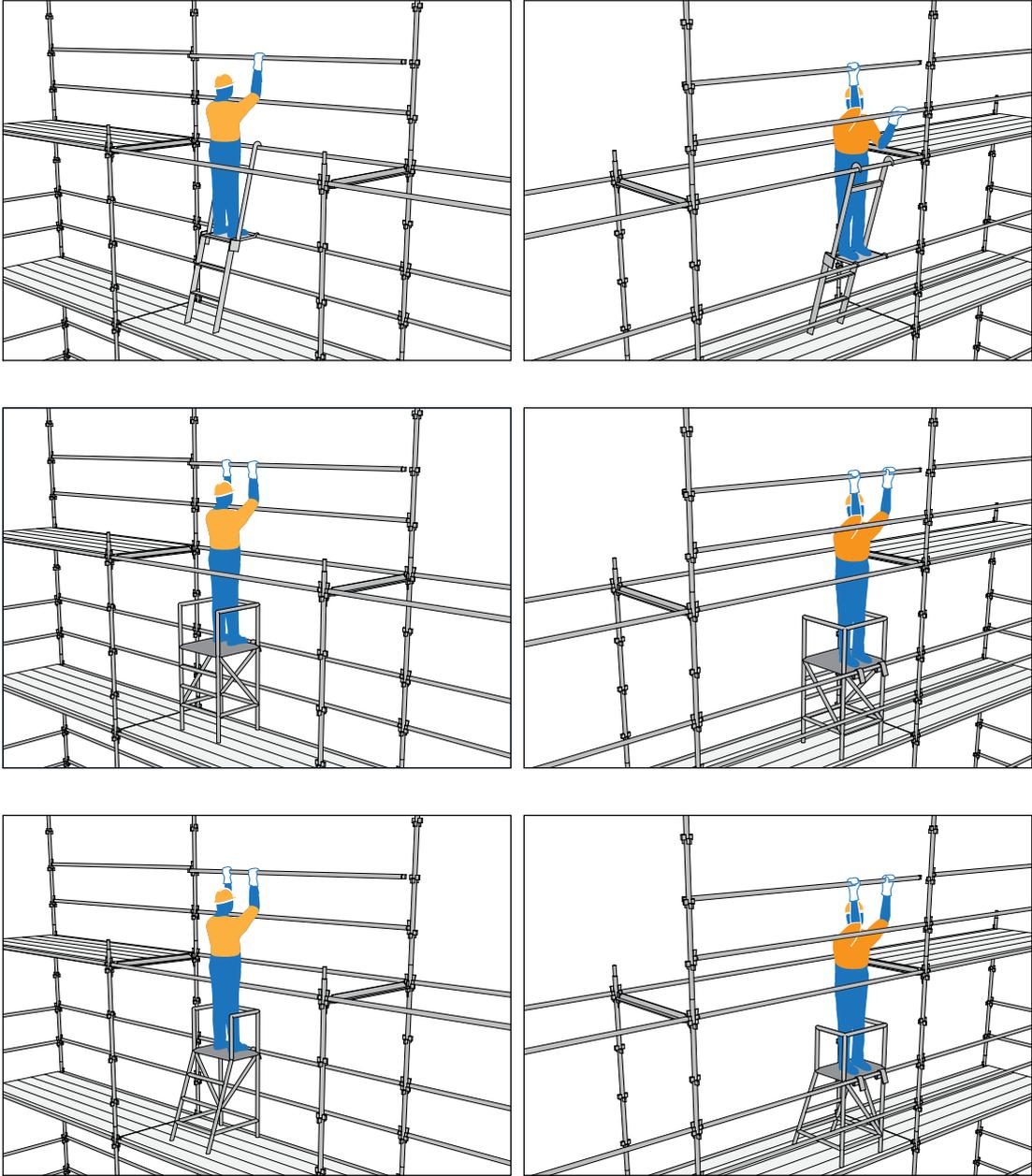


Figure 1: Diagrammatic illustration of erection and dismantling using various erection platform options – one-man operation. Note: scaffold is shown against a building, so guardrails only needed on external face. Toeboards omitted for clarity.

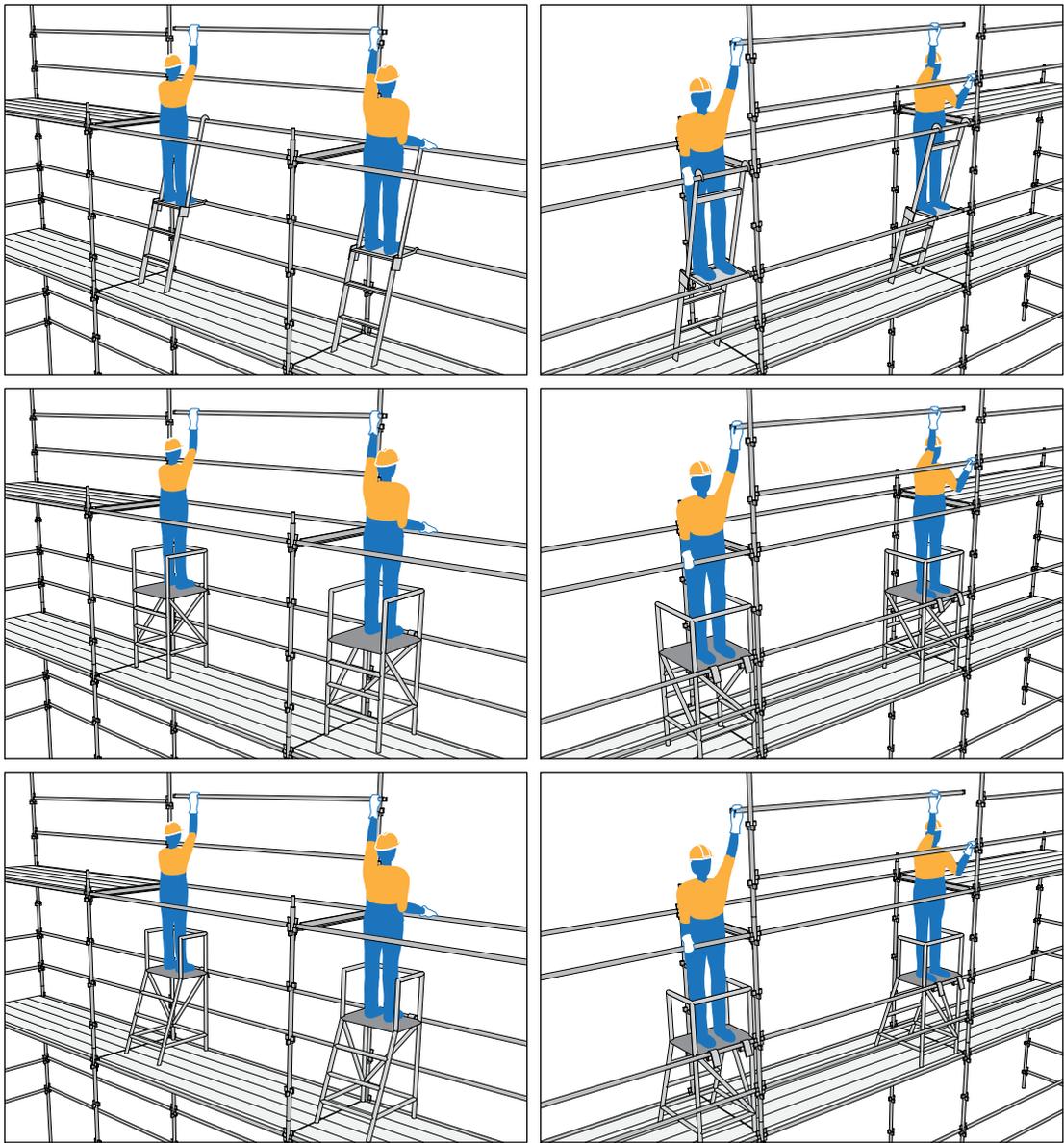


Figure 2: Diagrammatic illustration of erection and dismantling using various erection platform options – two-man operation. Note: Scaffold is shown against a building, so guardrails only needed on external face. Toeboards omitted for clarity.

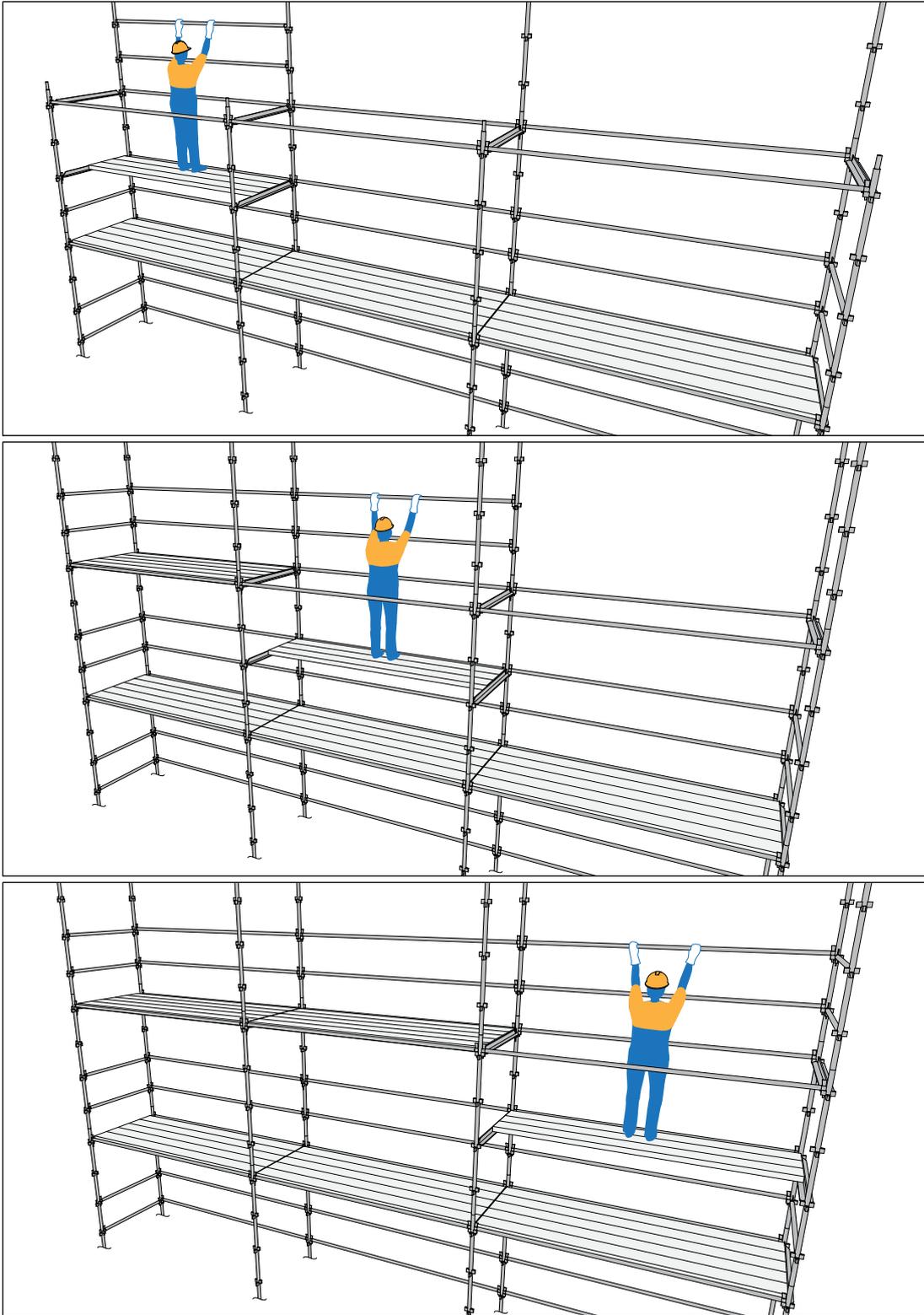


Figure 3: Diagrammatic illustration of an erection platform option for a five-plank-wide scaffold.
Note: Scaffold is shown against an existing building, so guardrails only needed on external face. Access ladder and toeboards omitted for clarity.

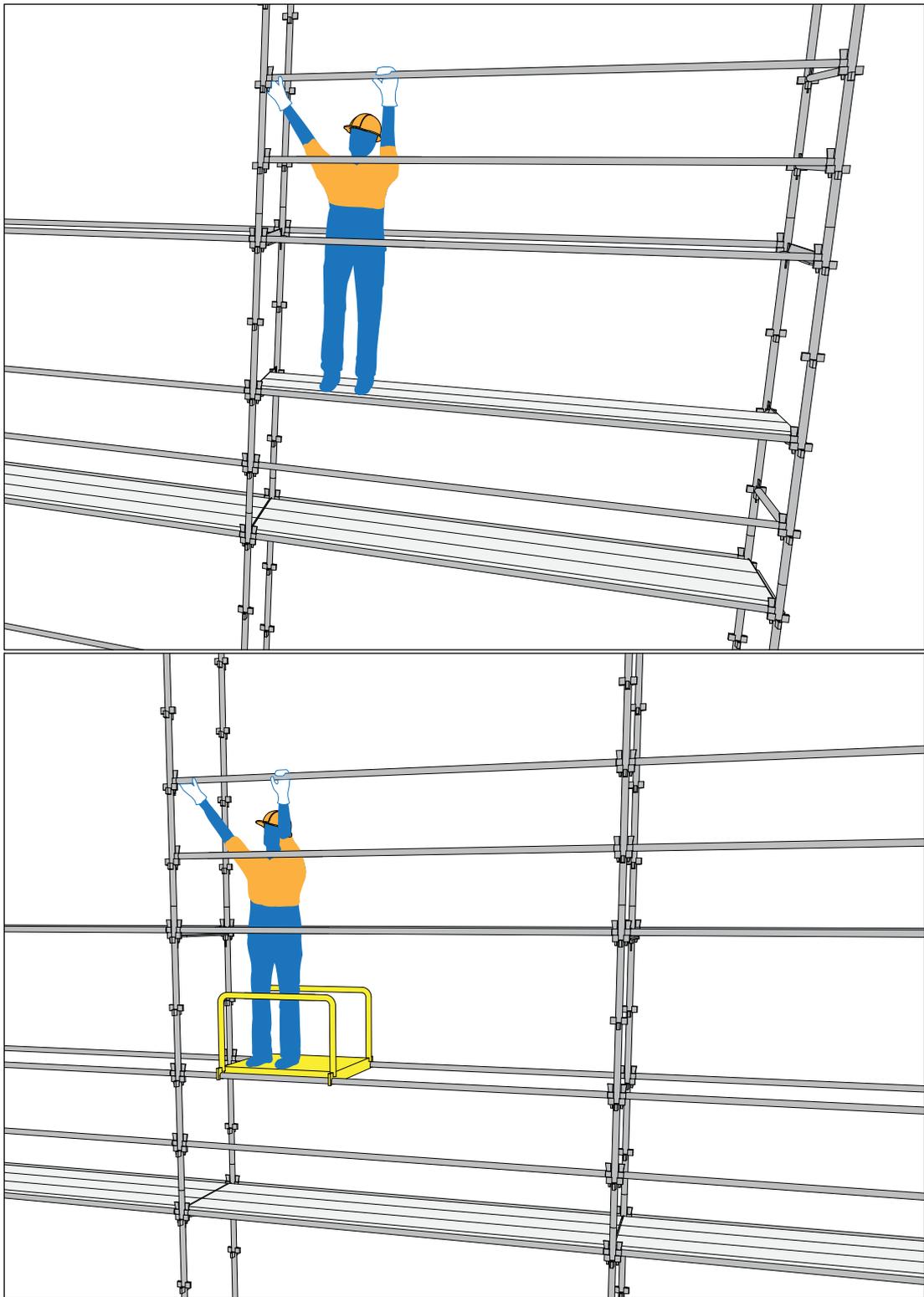


Figure 4: Diagrammatic illustration of an erection platform option for a three-plank-wide scaffold. Note: Scaffold is shown against a building, so guardrails only needed on external face. Toeboards omitted for clarity.



Figure 5: Diagrammatic illustration of a proprietary temporary edge protection system.

Note: Toeboards and lower mid-rails omitted for clarity.

Note: Proprietary temporary edge protection systems such as that illustrated above require a safe work method statement and the scaffolders to undertake training to use the system safely.

APPENDIX A – SCAFFOLD DESIGN LIMITATIONS

The permitted scaffold configurations are intended to assist those erecting less complex scaffolds to do so without having the structural capacity of their scaffolds checked by an engineer.

Table 1 applies to all scaffolds that fit within the below design assumptions. For scaffolds with greater structural capacity or that otherwise do not comply with the design assumptions, a revised version of table 1 may be developed based on an engineering review of the specific scaffold system.

Common issues where engineering review is required due to non-compliance with the design assumptions are:

- use of three-board hop-up platforms
- use of non-porous containment sheeting
- erection in high wind areas, eg coastal or cliff edges
- thinner wall tubing.

DESIGN ASSUMPTIONS

- Standards are manufactured from tube 48.3 mm OD x 4 mm wall thickness and minimum steel grade C250 (minimum yield strength).
- Scaffold is erected nominally plumb and standards are free of bends and damage.
- Maximum height to the top working platform is no more than 20 m.
- Bay size is not exceeding 2.4 m x 1.3 m approximately.
- Number of fully planked platform levels is not more than 10.
- Number of hop-up platforms is not more than 10 – hop-up platforms may be capable of supporting one or two planks wide (about 450 mm).
- Live load (duty rating), uniformly distributed over the working platform, must not exceed permissible duty rating as outlined in table 1.
- Working platforms supported by hop-up brackets are not loaded to more than light duty, regardless of the duty rating of the working platform in the adjoining scaffold bay.
- Number of permitted loaded working platforms and platforms supported by hop-up brackets are not greater than those shown in table 1.
- Where specified, scaffold is sheeted with chain-wire mesh and 20 per cent porosity (minimum) shade cloth.
- The maximum vertical extension of a clad scaffold above the highest tie does not exceed 2 m, with all standards above the tie being full standards without any joints.
- Wind load is imposed by a wind speed not exceeding 60 kph (16 m/s) acting at 90 degrees directly onto the scaffold face – this design assumption does not allow a scaffold to be erected near a cliff edge or any other area where high winds are likely to occur during the time the scaffold is being erected, used or dismantled (this assumption also applies to incomplete scaffolds).
- Every second standard is tied to a supporting structure of adequate strength, at 4 m (maximum) vertical intervals.

- For scaffolds with a fully planked platform above 14 m, additional ties are placed as per figure 6.
- The foundation or footing has adequate bearing capacity to support the imposed load from the scaffold (refer to Australian Standard AS4576: Guidelines for Scaffolding).

Variations to the above design assumptions will require a detailed structural analysis by a structural engineer with a sound knowledge of scaffolding.

PERMITTED SCAFFOLD CONFIGURATIONS

Check that the installed scaffold conforms to the design assumptions before using the information in the table below.

Working platforms of various duty ratings may be provided at various levels so long as the platforms within any bay comply with a row from table 1. Figure 6a shows an example of how different duty loads or closed platforms may be applied along the run of the platform.

The full run of the platform does not have to be classified as a working or closed platform.

Closed working platforms must not be used as access to a working platform.

Max height (m) to top platform	Max number of fully planked platforms	Max number of planked hop-up platforms 1 or 2 planks wide	Permitted number of loaded platforms within the scaffold bay			Permitted number of loaded hop-up platforms 1 or 2 planks wide (light duty only)
			Heavy duty (675 kg)	Medium duty (450 kg)	Light duty (225 kg)	
20	10	10	1	0	0	1
20	10	10	0	1	1	1
20	10	10	0	0	2	1
16	8	8	1	0	1	1
16	8	8	0	2	0	2
16	8	8	0	1	1	2
12	6	6	1	1	0	2
12	6	6	1	0	2	2
12	6	6	0	2	1	2
12	6	6	0	1	3	2
6	3	3	2	0	0	2

Table 1: Permitted number of loaded platforms and hop-up bracket platforms

- Note:**
- Read across the table for each variation of permitted number of loaded platforms and hop-up platforms (eg see the bold figures).
 - Platforms within the bay must not be loaded to greater duty loading than shown in the table.
 - Load on hop-up platforms must not be greater than light duty loading.

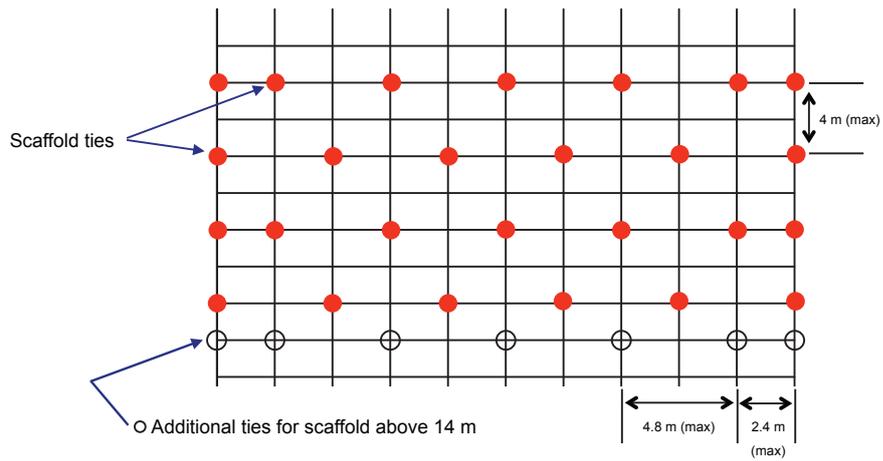


Figure 6: Diagrammatic illustration of a typical tie pattern

Bay no	1	2	3	4	5	6	etc
etc							
5	HD	HD	C	C	C	C	
4	C	C	C	C	HD	MD	
3	C	C	HD	HD	C	C	
2	C	C	C	C	C	LD	
1	C	C	C	C	C	C	
Level ↑							

C	CLOSED DUTY
HD	HEAVY DUTY
MD	MEDIUM DUTY
LD	LIGHT DUTY

Figure 6a: Example of staggered work platforms, based on direct access from the building to each platform.

APPENDIX B – CHECKLIST

The following checklist can be used by a person in control of preparing for the erection, alteration and dismantling of a scaffold to ensure the important safety features and procedures specified in this guide are in place. It should be used prior to work being undertaken.

Tick **yes** or **no** as appropriate against each item. By reviewing and completing this checklist with all 'yes' answers, you will be well on your way to achieving your legal obligations.

Where you answer 'no' to any item, you should ensure that the item is still addressed to meet your legal obligations.

SCAFFOLD CONFIGURATION AND DESIGN	YES	NO	COMMENT
Is the maximum height to the top working platform no more than 20 m?			
Are standards manufactured from tube 48.3 mm OD x 4 mm wall thickness and minimum steel grade C250?			
Is the bay size 2.4 m x 1.3 m or less (approximately)?			
Is the number of fully planked platforms 10 or less?			
Are there 10 or less available hop-up brackets capable of supporting platforms?			
Are the hop-up brackets suitable for no more than two planks (about 450 mm width)?			
Is live load uniformly distributed over the working platform – and not exceeding permissible duty rating as outlined in table 1?			
Are the number of fully planked platforms and hop-up platforms, and their associated duty ratings, in accordance with table 1?			
Are working platforms supported by hop-up brackets not loaded to more than light duty, regardless of the duty rating of the working platform in the adjoining scaffold bay?			
Is scaffold containment sheeting (eg chain wire mesh and shade cloth), if provided, at least 20 per cent porous?			
Has every second standard been tied to a supporting structure of adequate strength at (maximum) 4 m vertical intervals?			
For scaffolds greater than 14 m in height to the top working platform, is an extra row of ties fitted near the base of the scaffold, as shown in figure 6?			
Are standards with containment sheeting attached extending no more than 2 m above the highest ties?			

For standards supporting sheeting, are all the joints below the top working platform?			
Are ties staggered, as far as reasonably practicable?			
Have joints in the standards been staggered, as far as reasonably practicable?			
Is the foundation or footing adequate to support the imposed load? Note: If in doubt, get expert advice.			
Are fully planked platforms at every 2–3 m apart vertically?			
SITE MANAGEMENT	YES	NO	COMMENT
Is there an OHS management plan on-site that clearly identifies those responsible for implementing control measures in relation to scaffolding?			
Does the site-specific induction include the names of all persons responsible for implementing control measures in relation to scaffolding?			
Has a documented site-specific risk assessment been undertaken to ensure that scaffolding is not erected near a cliff top or other high wind area?			
Are site-specific hazards, eg proximity to powerlines – and control measures included in the scaffolding safe work method statement?			
Is there a system in place to inform workers which platforms are working platforms or closed platforms, eg scaffolders to provide information and in turn this information to be provided to workers through regular toolbox meetings?			
Is there adequate supervision to ensure that the control measures are monitored for effectiveness and modifications are recommended when appropriate?			
Are scaffold inspection records available and maintained by the principal contractor?			

APPENDIX C – FURTHER INFORMATION

- Visit workcover.nsw.gov.au
- Call the WorkCover Assistance Service on **13 10 50**.
- Call the WorkCover Publications Hotline on **1300 799 003**.
- Visit your nearest WorkCover office.
- For technical specifications on scaffold, contact your local manufacturer.

APPROVED INDUSTRY CODES OF PRACTICE

- *Code of practice: Work near overhead power lines* (chapter 6 – scaffolding).

AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS

Australian Standards can be purchased from SAI Global. Contact the Customer Service Centre on 13 12 42 or visit saiglobal.com/shop

Check if any updates or additions to the Australian Standards have been made.

AS/NZS1576: Part 1: Scaffolding – General Requirements

AS1577: Scaffold Planks

AS/NZS1892.1: Portable Ladders – Metal

AS/NZS1892.3: Portable Ladders – Reinforced Plastic

AS/NZS4576: Guidelines for Scaffolding



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