



Temporary Works
forum (NZ)

Promoting best practice in
the construction industry.

SCAFFOLDING

Scaffolds are temporary structures made conventionally out of steel or aluminium tubes, tubular lattice beams, couplers, fittings, planks and/or modular systems that provide access or support, to enable construction, maintenance or demolition.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- Where ties are not installed properly or have been removed (ties at a minimum of every second bay and every second lift).
- Where standards (verticals) are without baseplates.
- Where baseplates are without soleboards (except on RC slabs).
- Damage or deterioration of planks, or planks not adequately secured against uplift or displacement.
- Where trusses are not braced at a minimum of 2m centres.
- Where bracing is not provided to the end bays.
- Where bracing is not provided to every 5th bay.
- Where scaffolds have not been inspected in the last week.
- Where scaffold tags do not display duty rating.
- Where loading bays do not display max loading.
- Where platforms are used for duties beyond its duty rating.
- Where sheeted scaffolds have not been designed by a CPEng.
- Where connections >300mm of node points.

What is the risk?

Scaffolding can become unstable where it is not designed, constructed, used, maintained or adapted in accordance with good practice. An unstable scaffold can collapse onto the worksite and cause injury to those using it, or others.

Why could that happen?

Scaffolds are relatively large but lightweight structures and often require significant numbers of ties and braces to either transfer loads into adjacent structure, or into the ground. Where all potential loads for the scaffold have not been adequately

considered or assessed by a suitably competent person, the scaffold can become unstable in the event of high winds, earthquakes or even under general loading conditions otherwise not adequately considered.

How do I know it is safe?

Scaffolds that are tagged as safe to use have been inspected by a competent scaffolder. Scaffolders should identify any scaffolds that need to be supported by a Design Check Certificate and provide this to the site.

Where can I find good practice?

- Scaffolding in New Zealand: Good Practice Guideline (WorkSafe NZ)
- Scaffold design guide note (SARNZ)

Who do I speak to if I have any concerns?

You must raise your query with the Temporary Works Co-ordinator for the Project. If this person is not immediately available please discuss your concerns with the Site Manager.