Gatech Supported Scaffolds in Construction



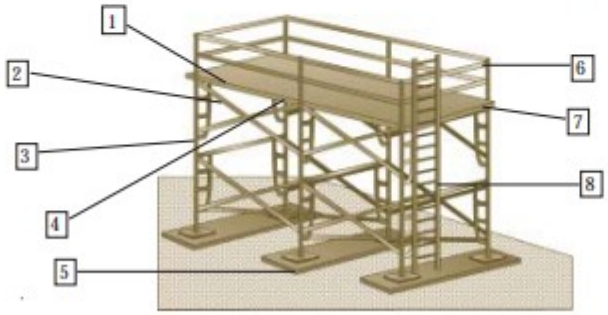
Easy to use handout and diagram on supported scaffolds in the construction industry.

TECH Assist Program

Georgia Tech's Safety and Health Consultation Program http://www.oshainfo.gatech.edu

Use of Supported Scaffolds in the Construction Industry

Georgia Tech's Safety and Health Consultation Program is a free and confidential service funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and available to small businesses in the state of Georgia.



1. Braces must **not** be used:
   - To access the scaffold, or
   - For guardrails, unless they meet design criteria.
2. Cross braces must be used to keep the scaffold square. Different manufacturer components may be used only if structural integrity is maintained.
3. Frames must be joined together vertically by coupling pins or stacking pins.
4. The scaffolding platform must:
   - Be fully planked with no gaps greater than one inch.
   - Have sufficient strength to support four times its intended load.
   - Be made of scaffold-grade lumber with no cracks.
   - Have planks that extend over the centerline of support by a minimum of 6 inches and a maximum of 18 inches. (For continuous-length scaffolds, the planks must extend 12 inches)
   - Have no opaque finish on the planks.
   - Contain no accumulated debris on the platform.
5. Supported scaffold legs, posts, and frames shall:
   - Bear weight on base plates and mudsills or other adequate firm foundation. Unstable objects cannot be used to support scaffold.
   - Have sound, rigid footings and be capable of supporting the scaffold without displacement.
6. Guardrails must be used if the scaffold is taller than 10 feet. The guardrails must meet the following criteria:
   - The top rail must be 38-45 inches above the work surface.
   - Mid rails must be installed.
   - A toe board or screen must be used if there is a potential for falling objects.
7. The front edge of the planks cannot be more than 14 inches from the face of the work, unless guardrails are used.
8. Ladders must be used two feet above or below access.
9. If scaffold has a greater than 4:1 height-to-base ratio it must be restrained to prevent tipping by:
   - Installed guys or ties placed at horizontal members at inner and outer legs, and
   - Repeating the horizontal connection every 20 feet.

For More Information

Visit http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/scaffolding/supported/index.html to use the the OSHA E-Tool on Supported and Suspended Scaffolds.

updated 02/03

Georgia Tech Research Institute

For more information, contact the Tech Assist Program
Electro-Optics, Environment and Materials Laboratory
Safety, Health, and Environmental Technology Division, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0837
404-894-3806 http://www.oshainfo.gatech.edu

Printed on recycled paper