

# Sample Scaffold Inspection Checklist

Inspection items vary depending on the type of scaffold used. Consult the manufacturer's recommendations. Any part of a scaffold that is damaged or weakened must be immediately repaired or replaced, braced, or removed from service as appropriate.

## Base

- Ground condition.** Firm and unchanged. The base is not sinking or being undermined by erosion or other factors.
- Casters (mobile scaffolds).** Casters are free of defects, pinned to vertical members, and brakes and swivels are locked.
- Base plates.** For all stationary scaffolds, legs must rest on base plates.
- Mudsills.** Where the underlying surface could compress or allow the leg to move laterally, base plates must be fastened to the mudsills to distribute the weight over a larger surface area (Figure 1).
- Access.** There must be no greater than two feet vertical distance between the point of access and the scaffold platform, the bottom rung of the access ladder, or the bottom step of the access staircase.

## Structure

- Level.** Scaffold is level and plumb.
- Assembly.** Scaffold is assembled correctly.
- Bracing.** All required bracing is in place and securely fastened.
- Platforms (mobile scaffold).** Platforms must be secured to the ledgers and must not extend beyond the footprint of the base. Side brackets and extension platforms are not permitted for mobile scaffolds.
- Bracing (mobile scaffolds).** Sides are braced horizontally so the ends cannot rack out of square (Figure 2). On parallels, the frame is braced square by the platforms, which are rigid and should be installed at each level with locking pins (dogs) locked to the ledgers.
- Connections.** All joints, clamps, couplers, and bolts are properly fastened/firmly tightened.
- Stress.** There is no evidence of stress, such as deformation of scaffold members, sagging or twisting areas, or uprights racking out of square.
- Stability.** Scaffold is stable and its platform height does not exceed three times the smallest base dimension unless the scaffold is securely tied, guyed, or braced at the correct places. (Figure C.3).

## Platforms

- Platforms.** Platforms are fully decked, free of damage, and secured to the ledgers (when required). When lumber is used for planking, only scaffold-grade lumber is used (Figure 1).

- **Load.** Platforms do not deflect more than 1/60 of the span when under load.
- **Trip and slip hazards.** There are no loose objects on the platform creating a trip hazard or conditions creating a slip hazard.
- **Overhead hazards.** There is no overhead obstruction at 6-ft, 6-in. or lower.

### **Guardrails, Toeboards, Access**

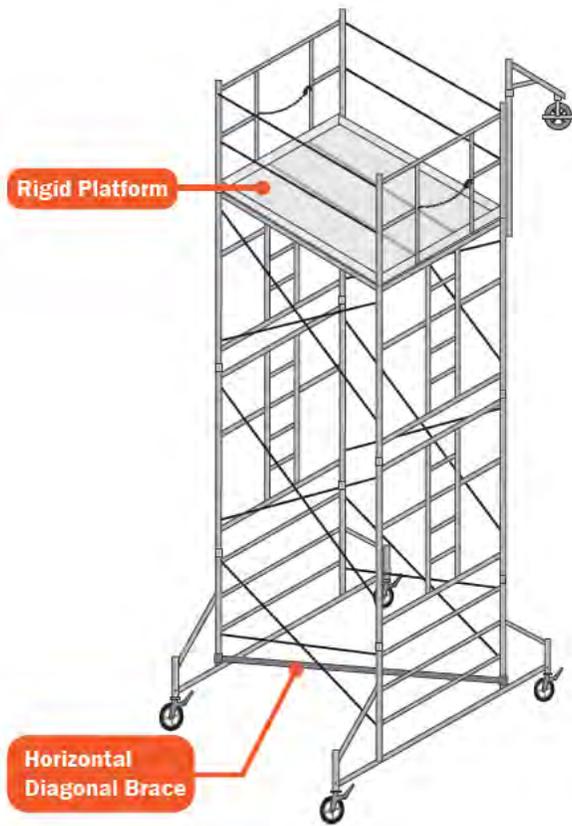
- **Guardrails.** Guardrails and toeboards are in place.
- **Access.** Safe access is provided; ladders are secured.

### **General Inspection Items**

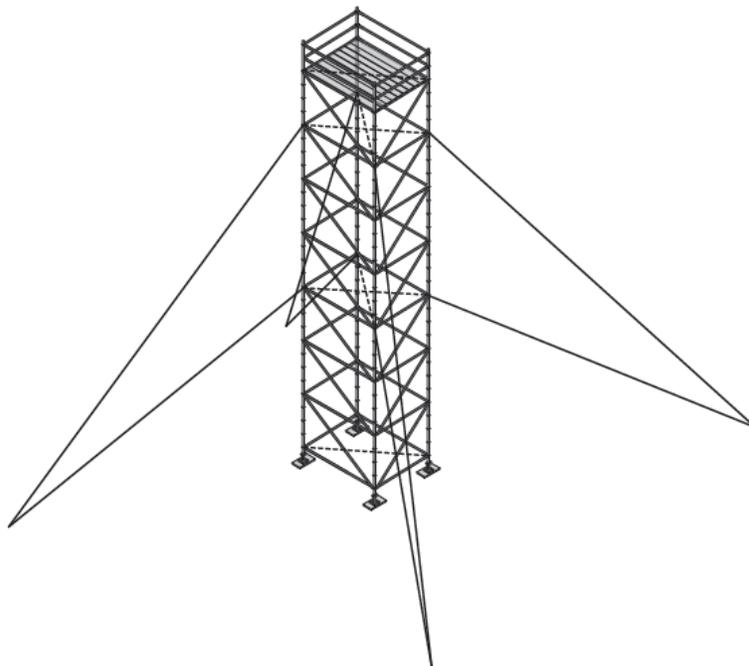
- **Power line clearance.** Appropriate clearance is maintained from power lines.
- **Alterations.** Scaffold has not been altered. Bracing and guardrails have not been removed.
- **Safe use.** Scaffold is being used safely. For example, materials are not piled in one location or overloading the platform, ladders are not being used inappropriately to achieve greater height.
- **Wind and weather.** Appropriate procedures have been implemented to monitor wind speeds and weather conditions.



**Figure 1.** Base plate secured to mudsill.



**Figure 2.** Proper diagonal bracing and rigid decks ensure the sides cannot rack when the scaffold is moved.



**Figure 3.** Scaffold is stabilized with guys (when required).