

Glossary of Scaffold Terms

This glossary incorporates Cal/OSHA definitions and Federal OSHA terms where they differ. Additionally, it includes common usage terms as described by the Scaffold and Access Industry Association (SAIA).

access. A means of reaching a workspace or a work area.

aerial lift. A mobile elevating work platform or basket. Most commonly a telescoping boom lift.

base plate. A metal plate fitted to the bottom of the uprights where they rest on the ground.

bearer. See *ledger*.

belly lines. Guys (typically ¼-in. hemp) used to straighten deflection of high braces.

boatswain's chair. A seat that may be raised or lowered by means of attached rigging that suspends it and the seated worker from above.

brace. A member used to hold a horizontal or vertical member in a fixed position with respect to another member.

brace, cross. Braces forming an 'X'.

brace, face. See *longitudinal brace*.

brace, knee. (Also called Spur or Raker) A vertical diagonal member used to bear a load such as a scaffold extension.

brace, horizontal diagonal. (Also called Plan) A horizontal member that extends diagonally from one upright or leg to another upright or leg, to keep the frame square.

brace, longitudinal. Also called a sway or face brace. A vertical diagonal member in the run plane that extends from the upright/ribbon intersection diagonally upwards to the upright/ribbon intersection on the lift above.

brace, sway. See *longitudinal brace*.

brace, transverse. A vertical diagonal in the ledger vertical plane that extends from the upright/ledger intersection diagonally upward to the upright/ledger intersection on the lift above.

brace, vertical diagonal. Either a longitudinal or transverse brace.

caster. A pivoting wheel containing a wheel lock, a swivel lock, or both, that is attached to the base of the scaffold for manual movement of the scaffold.

clear span. The distance between facing edges of horizontal supporting members.

competent person. As defined by Fed OSHA: One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or work conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them (Fed OSHA §1926.32(f)).

coupler. A device for locking together the component parts of a tubular metal scaffold.

cuplock. A type of system scaffold.

davit arm. Hoisting equipment.

duty rating. See: *scaffold, light duty; scaffold, medium duty; and scaffold, heavy duty*.

ends. The short side of a scaffold.

end frames. The welded frame of sectional frame scaffold comprising the ledger, uprights and intermediate members.

face. The long side of a scaffold.

gin wheel. A large-diameter pulley for hoisting.

greenbeds. Prefabricated platforms primarily used to provide access for crewmembers and lighting positions above the set.

greenbed hangers. Metal frames comprising two uprights and a ledger that supports the ends of greenbed frames.

guardrail system. A barrier consisting of a top rail and a midrail secured to uprights and erected along the exposed sides and ends of platforms.

guy. A tension member used to stabilize a vertical structure.

high braces. (Or high ties) are made of dimensional lumber (typically 2 × 4) and brace the greenbeds to the perms or other solid structure.

hoist. A means of lifting or lowering a load, comprising a manual pulley wheel (or motorized winch) and fall lines.

horizontal plane. The plane of the platform of a scaffold.

job-made ladder. A ladder that is fabricated at the jobsite and is not commercially manufactured.

ladder, double-cleat. A type of job-made ladder that is similar to a single-cleat ladder, but wider and with an additional center rail that allows two-way traffic for ascending and descending workers.

ladder, portable. A ladder, not permanently fixed in place, which may be used at various locations.

ladder stand. A mobile, fixed-size, self-supporting ladder consisting of a wide, flat-tread ladder in the form of stairs.

lamp scaffold. As defined by Cal/OSHA: An elevated staging used to support lamps and auxiliary equipment for the purpose of furnishing illumination. See also *greenbed*.

lamp scaffold, non-operating side. The side of a parallel or lamp scaffold on which lamps are not installed.

lamp scaffold, operating minimum. The side clearance necessary for the proper manipulation of a lamp.

lamp scaffold, operating side. The side of a parallel or lamp scaffold on which lamps are installed.

lamp scaffold, parallel. An elevated staging used to support lamps and auxiliary equipment for the purpose of furnishing illumination.

ledger. The horizontal member of a scaffold that runs at right angles to the wall and directly supports the planking of the platform. Cal/OSHA uses the term *ledger*, while Fed OSHA uses the term *bearer*. (Note: Fed OSHA includes *ledger* as an alternative to *runner* or *ribbon*.)

lift. A level of the scaffold containing horizontal members capable of supporting a platform, similar to the stories of a building.

lift height. The vertical distance between two ledgers.

longitudinal plane. (face or run) The long side of a scaffold.

maximum intended working load. The maximum working load established by the manufacturer, engineer, or qualified person who designed the scaffold.

maximum rated load. The total of all loads including the working load, the weight of the scaffold, and other loads that may be reasonably anticipated.

mobile work platform. A fixed work level on casters or wheels, with bracing diagonally from platform to vertical frame.

mudsill. A wooden member designed to distribute the vertical scaffold load to the ground below. A mudsill is a long member that supports multiple uprights.

outrigger. Legs used to increase size of the base of the scaffold, and thereby increase stability.

overhead protection. A toeboard, screen, catch net, or other means used to prevent materials from falling and injuring people below.

pad. See *mudsill*.

parallels. As defined by Cal/OSHA: An elevated staging used to support lamps and auxiliary equipment for the purpose of furnishing illumination.

perms. The building structure above the soundstage.

personal fall protection system. Includes personal fall arrest systems, positioning device systems, safety nets, and guardrails.

point load. A concentration of load at a point. If the supporting material is incapable of supporting it, point loading can cause excessive stress and lead to structural failure. In contrast, a distributed load transfers the load over a larger surface area or between multiple supports.

putlog. A structural spanning member between two scaffold uprights, upon which a platform or other scaffold members are supported.

qualified person. As defined by Cal/OSHA: A person designated by the employer who by reason of training, experience, and instruction has demonstrated the ability to safely perform all assigned duties, and when required, is properly licensed in accordance with federal, state and local laws and regulations. (Cal/OSHA Sections 1504 and 3207)

republics. Movie-industry term for short braces that attach between greenbeds and the set walls when the set is immediately below the beds.

ribbon. The horizontal member in a scaffold that runs from upright to upright parallel to the building, and that is normally placed directly under the ledger. Cal/OSHA uses the term *ribbon*. Fed OSHA uses the term *runner*.

ringlock. See *uni-lock*.

run. The longitudinal axis of the scaffold (the face).

runner. See *ribbon*.

scaffold. Any temporary, elevated structure used for the support of a platform. The term "scaffold" is used with inclusion of the platform and all supporting members when reference is made to loading factors. (See also *scaffolding*).

scaffold, engineered. Scaffold designed by a civil engineer currently registered in the State of California and experienced in scaffold design.

scaffold, heavy duty. A scaffold designed and constructed to carry a working load of 75 lb. per square ft. of scaffold platform, including the weight of materials and workers on the platform.

scaffold, hanging. A temporary work platform without support from below, secured to an overhead structure using fixed rigid suspension members. It does not have the ability to move vertically or horizontally.

scaffold, interior-hung. A scaffold suspended from the ceiling or roof structure.

scaffold, ladder jack. A light trade scaffold supported by brackets attached to ladders.

scaffold, lamp. See *lamp scaffold*.

scaffold, lean-to. A supported scaffold that is kept erect by tilting it toward, and resting it against, a building or structure.

scaffold, light-duty. A scaffold designed and constructed to carry a working load of 25 lb. per square ft. of scaffold platform, including the weight of materials and workers on the platform.

scaffold, mobile manually-propelled. See *rolling scaffold*.

scaffold, medium duty. A scaffold designed and constructed to carry a working load of 50 lb. per square ft. of scaffold platform, including weight of materials and workers on the platform.

scaffold, pole. See *scaffold, wooden pole*.

scaffold, rolling. A portable rolling scaffold supported by caster wheels.

scaffold, shore. A supported scaffold that is placed against a building or structure and held in place with props.

scaffold, special duty. A scaffold designed and constructed to carry a working load that exceeds 75 lb. per square ft. of scaffold platform, including weight of materials and workers on the platform.

scaffold, suspended. A scaffold suspended from above by ropes or cables and rigged with pulley blocks, winches, or equivalent, so that the scaffold elevation is easily adjustable. Note that this is different from hanging scaffold, which is dead-hung.

scaffold, tube and coupler. An assembly consisting of tubing that serves as uprights, ledgers, ribbons, ties and braces, a base supporting the uprights, and special couplers that serve to connect the uprights and to join the various members.

scaffold, tubular-welded frame (or scaffold, section frame). A sectional panel or frame metal scaffold substantially built up of prefabricated, welded sections that consist of uprights and horizontal ledgers with intermediate members.

scaffold, tubular-welded sectional folding. A sectional, folding metal scaffold either of ladder frame or inside stairway design, substantially built of prefabricated welded sections that consist of end frames, a platform frame, an inside inclined stairway frame and braces or hinge-connected diagonal and horizontal braces, and that is capable of being folded into a flat package when the scaffold is not in use.

scaffold, wooden pole. A scaffold built of one or two rows of vertical members (uprights), horizontal ledgers, platform planks, ribbons and braces. A single-pole scaffold consists of one row of uprights, and a double-pole scaffold consists of two rows of uprights.

scaffolding. The planks and tubes from which a scaffold is assembled.

select lumber. Douglas fir that has been graded under standards as high as those followed by the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau or by the Western Wood Products Association as suitable for a bending stress of 1,500 psi. California Code or Regulations, Title 8, Section 1504, Definitions.

service drop. An overhead electrical line running from the utility pole to a building.

side bracket. (or bracket) A bracket accessory attached to the scaffold to provide additional platform cantilevered outside the area encompassed by the uprights.

sill. See *mudsill*.

stacking pins. Pins for aligning and joining two end frames vertically.

standard design specifications. Standard as referred to ladders, ROPS, railings, etc., means as described elsewhere in the Orders, ultimately based upon standards established by ANSI, SAE, engineers competent in specialized fields, equipment manufacturers and other duly recognized authorities.

stand-off braces. Rigid members that prevent the scaffold from tipping toward the building. Used with building ties to prevent the scaffold from swaying, tipping, or collapsing when it is erected along a permanent structure.

structural plank. Cal/OSHA Requires that lumber used as a scaffold plank must be scaffold plank grade 2x10 (nominal) lumber, which Cal/ OSHA defines as a "structural plank" as follows:

1. Douglas fir graded for scaffold plank use and which has an allowable bending stress of at least 2,200 pounds per square inch (psi). Select structural scaffold plank, as described in Paragraph 171-b of the January 1, 2000 Standard Grading Rules No. 17, published by the West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau and Scaffold No.2 as described in Paragraph 58.12 of the 1998 Edition of the Western Lumber Grading Rules published by the Western Wood Products Association, satisfy this definition.
2. Southern Pine graded for scaffold plank use that meets the Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine, effective July 1, 2002, Section 501 for Dense Industrial 72 Scaffold Plank and Section 502 for Dense Industrial 65 Scaffold Plank.
3. Other solid sawn wood planking graded as a scaffold plank that meets the scaffold plank grading rules of an agency approved by the American Lumber Standards Committee for the species of wood used.

California Code or Regulations, Title 8, Section 1504, *Definitions* and Sections 1637, *Scaffolds, General Requirements*.

Note: The grading criteria for scaffold-plank-grade lumber are more rigorous than even the highest grade of structural/grading lumber (select structural). Lumber graded as structural select does not necessarily meet the criteria for use as scaffold planking. Technically, the Cal/OSHA regulation is written to accept any lumber that is "at least equivalent to" a "structural plank". In practice, there are no obvious options "equivalent to" a graded scaffold plank and no way to ensure lumber meets the standard except using lumber labeled with the scaffold plank grade stamp.

swivel screw jack. A screw jack with a tilting base plate to accommodate a slightly-sloped surface.

swing fall. A fall that occurs when the worker is not under the anchor point resulting in a pendulum swing and impact with surrounding equipment or surfaces.

system scaffold. A manufactured system of modular scaffolding parts that utilizes a specialized connection system to attach uprights to the horizontal members and braces.

toeboard. A barrier secured along the sides and ends of a platform at the platform level used to guard against the falling of material.

truss. A putlog or other reinforced framework.

tie. A device used between a scaffold and a building or structure to enhance the stability of the scaffold.

transverse plane. The plane of the narrow side of the scaffold, such as at the ends.

uprights. (also standards, verticals, or posts) The vertical members of a pole scaffold, such as posts, poles, or columns.

uni-lock. System scaffold where the uprights are constructed with connection rings at regular vertical intervals that provide a single system of attachment for all components. Components are attached by tapping a steel wedge into each connection.

working load. Load imposed by workers, materials and equipment.