

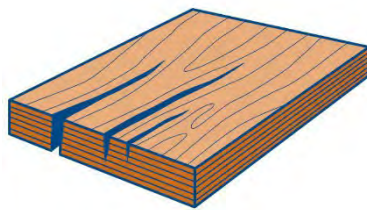
Inspection Criteria for Wooden Scaffold Planks

- Wooden scaffold planks are required to be 2 × 10 in. or wider.
- The face of planks must not be covered with paint as it can obscure damage.

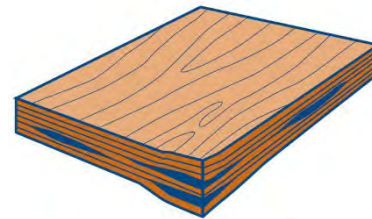
- Laminated and solid wooden planks must be labeled as “Scaffold Planks” on the grading stamp:



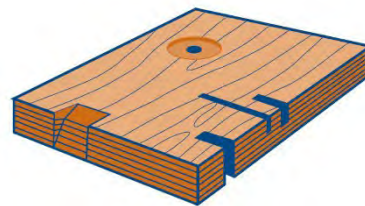
- Lumber must be free of splits, knots, grain run-out, saw cuts, bows, drill holes, and rot:



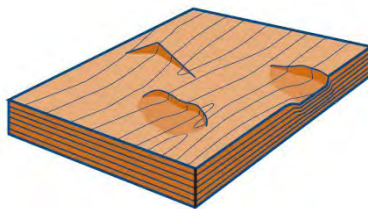
End splits



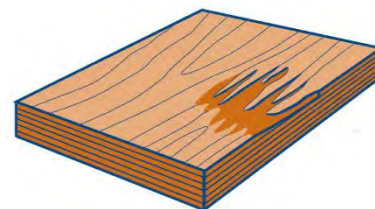
Edge splits



Saw cuts and knots



Dents, gouges, depressions



Face breaks

- A check is a crack along the wood grain on the face or end that does not go all the way through the thickness of the plank. Checks in the plank ends are common and are allowable.
- A split is a crack in the end of the plank that goes through the entire thickness of the plank, surface to surface. End splits less than 12 in. do not affect the strength of the plank. End splits longer than 12 in. are not acceptable.

- A crack along the narrow side of the plank could be a sign of internal damage. The plank should not be used.



- An unacceptable knot is defined as a tight knot having more than a 1-in. diameter on the surface (not at the edge) of a scaffold plank.
- Grain run-out causes a sharp end due to the slope of the grain of the wood. A sharp end can impale the handler. Grain slope should not exceed 1-in. change in 16 in. of length.
- Saw cuts are not permitted to be deeper than 1/8-in. Toss or cut off affected area and recycle for use as a shorter plank or use for mud sills.
- Discoloration is caused by chemical spills or other caustic materials, which deteriorate the plank strength. Discoloration can also be caused by dry-rot or excessive absorption of liquids.
- Soft and spongy wood are almost always caused by dry-rot and should always be removed and rejected as scaffold planks as they are very prone to failure.