This informational booklet is intended to provide a generic, non-exhaustive overview of a particular standards-related topic. This publication does not itself alter or determine compliance responsibilities, which are set forth in OSHA standards themselves and the *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970*.

Moreover, because interpretations and enforcement policy may change over time, for additional guidance on OSHA compliance requirements, the reader should consult current administrative interpretations and decisions by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission and the courts.

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A Guide to Scaffold Use in the Construction Industry

Small Business Safety Management Series

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The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 charges the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) with protecting all working men and women across the United States. To do so, the agency sets federal standards for general industry, construction, and shipyard employment. OSHA also promotes a variety of voluntary programs that strive to form partnerships with businesses, labor, and other groups to help employers provide safer and more healthful workplaces for employees. Some of the agency’s voluntary initiatives include safety and health management programs, the Voluntary Protection Programs, consultation assistance, and training and education programs and grants. For more information on these outreach efforts, see page 12 of this booklet.

The agency’s recent rule, Safety Standards for Scaffolds Use in the Construction Industry rule aims to protect workers using scaffolding in construction work. Scaffolding hazards continue to rank high on the list of the most frequently cited standards in the construction industry. Scaffold-related fatalities account for a significant number of fatalities in the construction workplace. This booklet addresses some of the most common questions about OSHA’s scaffold standard. It is all part of the agency’s effort to provide guidance to employers who need help in complying with OSHA’s standards to protect the working men and women across the nation.

This booklet is organized in a question and answer format to highlight pertinent information that employers and employees need to know. The subjects addressed in each question follow the basic organization of the standard. In addition, each answer references the regulatory text where that particular information can be located. These references appear at the end of each answer in boldface type.

An appendix also includes an alphabetical index to the standard for quick reference.

It is important to note that the question and answer section of this booklet simply provides an overview of the standard. For compliance with all of the regulation’s requirements, refer to the regulatory text or Title 29 of the Code Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1926, Subpart L.

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1 Section 18(b) of The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, P.L. 91-596, encourages states to develop and operate, under OSHA guidance, their own job safety and health plans. An OSHA-approved state plan must have safety and health requirements at least as effective as those of Federal OSHA and must adopt comparable state standards within 6 months of promulgation of federal standards.
What are the highlights of the scaffolding standard?

OSHA’s scaffolding standard has several key provisions:

- **Fall protection or fall arrest systems**—Each employee more than 10 feet above a lower level shall be protected from falls by guardrails or a fall arrest system, except those on single-point and two-point adjustable suspension scaffolds. Each employee on a single-point and two-point adjustable suspended scaffold shall be protected by both a personal fall arrest system and a guardrail. 1926.451(g)(1)

- **Guardrail height**—The height of the top rail for scaffolds manufactured and placed in service after January 1, 2000 must be between 38 inches (0.9 meters) and 45 inches (1.2 meters). The height of the top rail for scaffolds manufactured and placed in service before January 1, 2000 can be between 36 inches (0.9 meters) and 45 inches (1.2 meters). 1926.451(g)(4)(ii)

- **Crossbracing**—When the crosspoint of crossbracing is used as a top rail, it must be between 38 inches (0.97 m) and 48 inches (1.3 meters) above the work platform. 1926.451(g)(4)(xv)

- **Midrails**—Midrails must be installed approximately halfway between the top rail and the platform surface. When a crosspoint of crossbracing is used as a midrail, it must be between 20 inches (0.5 meters) and 30 inches (0.8 m) above the work platform. 1926.451(g)(4)

- **Footings**—Support scaffold footings shall be level and capable of supporting the loaded scaffold. The legs, poles, frames, and uprights shall bear on base plates and mud sills. 1926.451(c)(2)

- **Platforms**—Supported scaffold platforms shall be fully planked or decked. 1926.451(b)

- **Guying ties, and braces**—Supported scaffolds with a height-to-base of more than 4:1 shall be restrained from tipping by guying, tying, bracing, or the equivalent. 1926.451(c)(1)

- **Capacity**—Scaffolds and scaffold components must support at least 4 times the maximum intended load. Suspension scaffold rigging must at least 6 times the intended load. 1926.451(a)(1) and (3)

- **Training**—Employers must train each employee who works on a scaffold on the hazards and the procedures to control the hazards. 1926.454

- **Inspections**—Before each work shift and after any occurrence that could affect the structural integrity, a competent person must inspect the scaffold and scaffold components for visible defects. 1926.451(f)(3)

- **Erecting and Dismantling**—When erecting and dismantling supported scaffolds, a competent person must determine the feasibility of providing a safe means of access and fall protection for these operations. 1926.451(e)(9) & (g)(2)

When is a competent person required for scaffolding?

OSHA’s scaffolding standard defines a competent person as “one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions, which are unsanitary, hazardous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.”

The standard requires a competent person to perform the following duties under these circumstances:

- **In General**:
  - To select and direct employees who erect, dismantle, move, or alter scaffolds. 1926.451(f)(7)
  - To determine if it is safe for employees to work on or from a scaffold during storms or high winds and to ensure that a personal fall arrest system or wind screens protect these employees. (Note: Windscreens should not be used unless the scaffold is secured against the anticipated wind forces imposed.) 1926.451(f)(12)

- **For Training**:
  - To train employees involved in erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining, or inspecting scaffolds to recognize associated work hazards. 1926.454(b)

- **For Inspections**:
  - To inspect scaffolds and scaffold components for visible defects before each work shift and after any occurrence which could affect the structural integrity and to authorize prompt corrective actions. 1926.451(f)(3)

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2 See the standard’s requirements for and definition of a competent person in the next question.
- To inspect ropes on suspended scaffolds prior to each workshift and after every occurrence which could affect the structural integrity and to authorize prompt corrective actions. 

1926.451(d)(10)

- To inspect manila or plastic (or other synthetic) rope being used for toprails or midrails. 

1926.451(g)(4)(xiv)

• For Suspension Scaffolds:
  - To evaluate direct connections to support the load. 1926.451 (d)(3)(i)
  - To evaluate the need to secure two-point and multi-point scaffolds to prevent swaying. 

1926.451(d)(18)

• For Erectors and Dismantlers:
  - To determine the feasibility and safety of providing fall protection and access. 

1926.451(e)(9) and 1926.451(g)(2)

- To train erectors and dismantlers (effective September 2, 1997) to recognize associated work hazards. 

1926.454(b)

• For Scaffold Components:
  - To determine if a scaffold will be structurally sound when intermixing components from different manufacturers. 

1926.451(b)(10)

- To determine if galvanic action has affected the capacity when using components of dissimilar metals. 

1926.451(b)(11)

When is a qualified person required for scaffolding?

The standard defines a qualified person as “one who—by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience—has successfully demonstrated his/her ability to solve or resolve problems related to the subject matter, the work, or the project.”

The qualified person must perform the following duties in these circumstances:

• In General:
  - To design and load scaffolds in accordance with that design. 

1926.451(a)(6)

• For Training:
  - To train employees working on the scaffolds to recognize the associated hazards and understand procedures to control or minimize those hazards. 

1926.454(a)

• For Suspension Scaffolds:
  - To design the rigging for single-point adjustable suspension scaffolds. 

1926.452(o)(2)(i)

- To design platforms on two-point adjustable suspension types that are less than 36 inches (0.9 m) wide to prevent instability. 

1926.452(p)(1)

- To make swaged attachments or spliced eyes on wire suspension ropes. 

1926.451(d)(11)

• For Components and Design:
  - To design scaffold components construction in accordance with the design. 

1926.451(a)(6)

When is an engineer required?

The standard requires a registered professional engineer to perform the following duties in these circumstances:

• For Suspension Scaffolds:
  - To design the direct connections of masons’ multi-point adjustable suspension scaffolds. 

1926.451(d)(3)(i)

• For Design:
  - To design scaffolds that are to be moved when employees are on them. 

1926.451(f)(5)

- To design pole scaffolds over 60 feet (18.3 meters) in height. 

1926.452(a)(10)

- To design tube and coupler scaffolds over 125 feet (38 meters) in height. 

1926.452(b)(10)

- To design fabricated frame scaffolds over 125 feet (38 meters) in height above their base plates. 

1926.452(c)(6)

- To design brackets on fabricated frame scaffolds used to support cantilevered loads in addition to workers. 

1926.452(c)(5)

- To design outrigger scaffolds and scaffold components. 

1926.452(i)(8)

What other standards apply to scaffolds?

29 CFR contains other standards that apply to construction work such as the responsibility to initiate and maintain programs (1926.29(b)(1)); exposures to dusts and chemicals (1926.33, .55, .59, .62, and .1101); hand and power tools (1926.300 - .307); electrical (1926.300 - .449); personal fall arrest systems (1926.502); and ladders (1926.1050 - .1060).
**Capacity**

What are the capacity requirements for all scaffolds?

Each scaffold and scaffold component must support without failure its own weight and at least four times the maximum intended load applied or transmitted to it. 1926.451(a)(1)

A qualified person must design the scaffolds, which are loaded in accordance with that design. 1926.451(a)(6)

Scaffolds and scaffold components must not be loaded in excess of their maximum intended loads or rated capacities, whichever is less. 1926.451(f)(1)

Load carrying timber members should be a minimum of 1,500 lb-f/in² construction grade lumber. Appendix A (1)(a)

**Scaffold Platform Construction**

What are scaffold platform construction requirements?

Each platform must be planked and decked as fully as possible with the space between the platform and uprights not more than 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) wide. The space must not exceed 9 inches (24.1 centimeters) when side brackets or odd-shaped structures result in a wider opening between the platform and the uprights. 1926.451(b)(1)

What are the requirements for scaffold planking?

Scaffold planking must be able to support, without failure, its own weight and at least four times the intended load. 1926.451(a)(1)

Solid sawn wood, fabricated planks, and fabricated platforms may be used as scaffold planks following the recommendations by the manufacturer or a lumber grading association or inspection agency. Appendix A (1)(b) and (c)

Tables showing maximum permissible spans, rated load capacity, and nominal thickness are in Appendix A (1)(b) & (c) of the standard.

What is the maximum deflection of a platform?

The platform must not deflect more than 1/60 of the span when loaded. 1926.451(f)(16)

Are there requirements for work on platforms cluttered with debris?

The standard prohibits work on platforms cluttered with debris. 1926.451(f)(13)

How wide does the work area need to be on scaffolding?

Each scaffold platform and walkway must be at least 18 inches (46 centimeters) wide. When the work area is less than 18 inches (46 centimeters) wide, guardrails and/or personal fall arrest systems must be used. 1926.451(b)(2)

Are guardrails required on all open sides of scaffolding?

The standard requires employers to protect each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet (3.1 m) above a lower level from falling to that lower level. 1926.451(g)(1)

To ensure adequate protection, install guardrails along all open sides and ends before releasing the scaffold for use by employees, other than the erection and dismantling crews. 1926.451(g)(4)

Guardrails are not required, however,

- When the front end of all platforms are less than 14 inches (36 centimeters) from the face of the work; 1926.451(b)(3)
- When outrigger scaffolds are 3 inches (8 centimeters) or less from the front edge; 1926.451(b)(3)(i)
- When employees are plastering and lathing 18 inches (46 centimeters) or less from the front edge. 1926.451(b)(3)(ii)

What materials are unacceptable for guardrails?

Steel or plastic banding must not be used as a toprail or a midrail. 1926.451(g)(4)(xiii)
Criteria for Supported Scaffolds

What are supported scaffolds?

Supported scaffolds are platforms supported by legs, outrigger beams, brackets, poles, uprights, posts, frames, or similar rigid support. \texttt{1926.451(b)}

The structural members, poles, legs, posts, frames, and uprights, must be plumb and braced to prevent swaying and displacement. \texttt{1926.451(c)(3)}

Do employees working on supported scaffolds need to be trained?

All employees must be trained by a qualified person to recognize the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used and how to control or minimize those hazards. The training must include fall hazards, falling object hazards, electrical hazards, proper use of the scaffold, and handling of materials. \texttt{1926.454(a)}

When do supported scaffolds need to be restrained from tipping?

Supported scaffolds with a height to base width ratio of more than 4:1 must be restrained by guy-ing, tying, bracing, or an equivalent means. \texttt{1926.451(c)(1)}

How can one prevent supported scaffolding from tipping?

Either the manufacturers’ recommendation or the following placements must be used for guys, ties, and braces:

- Install guys, ties, or braces at the closest horizontal member to the 4:1 height and repeat vertically with the top restraint no further than the 4:1 height from the top.
- Vertically—every 20 feet (6.1 meters) or less for scaffolds less than three feet (0.91 meters) wide; every 26 feet (7.9 meters) or less for scaffolds more than three feet (0.91 meters) wide.
- Horizontally—at each end; at intervals not to exceed 30 feet (9.1 meters) from one end. \texttt{1926.451(c)(1)}

What are the footing and foundation requirements for supported scaffolds?

Supported scaffolds’ poles, legs, posts, frames, and uprights must bear on base plates and mud sills, or other adequate firm foundation. \texttt{1926.451(c)(2)(i) and (ii)}

May forklifts, front-end loaders, or similar equipment support platforms?

Forklifts can support platforms only when the entire platform is attached to the fork and the forklift does not move horizontally when workers are on the platform. \texttt{1926.451(c)(2)(v)}

Front-end loaders and similar equipment can support scaffold platforms only when they have been specifically designed by the manufacturer for such use. \texttt{1926.451(c)(2)(iv)}

What materials can be used to increase the working level height of employees on supported scaffolds?

Stilts may be used on a large area scaffold. When a guardrail system is used, the guardrail height must be increased in height equal to the height of the stilts. The manufacturer must approve any alterations to the stilts. \texttt{1926.452(v)}

Note: A large area scaffold consists of a pole, tube and coupler systems, or a fabricated frame scaffold erected over substantially the entire work area. \texttt{1926.451(b)}

Criteria for Suspended Scaffolds

What are suspension scaffolds?

A suspension scaffold contains one or more platforms suspended by ropes or other non-rigid means from an overhead structure. \texttt{1926.450(b)}, such as the following scaffolds: single-point, multi-point, multi-level, two-point, adjustable, boatswains’ chair, catenary, chimney hoist, continuous run, elevator false car, go-devils, interior hung, masons’, and stone setters’.
Are there requirements for suspension scaffolds?

Some of the requirements for all types of suspension scaffolds include:
• Employers must ensure that all employees are trained to recognize the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used. 1926.451(d)(1)
• All support devices must rest on surfaces capable of supporting at least four times the load imposed on them by the scaffold when operating at the rated load of the hoist, or at least one-and-a-half times the load imposed on them by the scaffold at the stall capacity of the hoist, whichever is greater. 1926.451(d)(1)
• A competent person must evaluate all direct connections prior to use to confirm that the supporting surfaces are able to support the imposed load. 1926.451(d)(1)
• All suspension scaffolds must be tied or otherwise secured to prevent them from swaying, as determined by a competent person. 1926.451(d)
• Guardrails, a personal fall arrest system, or both must protect each employee more than 10 feet (3.1 meters) above a lower level from falling. 1926.451(g)
• A competent person must inspect ropes for defects prior to each workshift and after every occurrence that could affect a rope’s integrity. 1926.451(d)(10)
• When scaffold platforms are more than 24 inches (61 centimeters) above or below a point of access, ladders, ramps, walkways, or similar surfaces must be used. 1926.451(e)(1)
• When using direct access, the surface must not be more than 24 inches (61 centimeters) above or 14 inches (36 cm) horizontally from the surface. 1926.451(e)(8)
• When lanyards are connected to horizontal lifelines or structural members on single-point or two-point adjustable scaffolds, the scaffold must have additional independent support lines equal in number and strength to the suspension lines and have automatic locking devices. 1926.451(g)(3)(iii)
• Emergency escape and rescue devices must not be used as working platforms, unless designed to function as suspension scaffolds and emergency systems. 1926.451(d)(19)

Are there specific requirements for counterweights?

Counterweights used to balance adjustable suspension scaffolds must be able to resist at least four times the tipping moment imposed by the scaffold operating at either the rated load of the hoist, or one-and-a-half (minimum) times the tipping moment imposed by the scaffold operating at the stall load of the hoist, whichever is greater. 1926.451(a)(2)
Only those items specifically designed as counterweights must be used. 1926.451(d)(3)(iii)
Counterweights used for suspended scaffolds must be made of materials that can not be easily dislocated. Flowable material, such as sand or water, cannot be used. 1926.451(d)(3)(ii)
Counterweights must be secured by mechanical means to the outrigger beams. 1926.451(d)(3)(iv)
Vertical lifelines must not be fastened to counterweights. 1926.451(g)(3)(i)

Can sand, masonry units, or rolls of roofing felt be used for counterweights?

No. Such materials cannot be used as counterweights. 1926.451(d)(3)(ii) and (iii)

What are the specific requirements for outrigger beams?

Outrigger beams (thrustouts) are the structural members of a suspension or outrigger scaffold that provide support. 1926.450(b) They must be placed perpendicular to their bearing support. 1926.451(d)(3)(viii)

Where do tiebacks for outrigger beams, cornice hooks, roof hooks, roof irons, parapet clamps, or similar devices need to be secured?

Tiebacks must be secured to a structurally sound anchorage on the building or structure. Sound anchorages do not include standpipes, vents, other piping systems, or electrical conduit. 1926.451(d)(3)(ix) and (d)(5)
How do tiebacks need to be installed?

A single tieback must be installed perpendicular to the face of the building or structure. Two tiebacks installed at opposing angles are required when a perpendicular tieback cannot be installed. 1926.451(d)(3)(x)

What are the requirements for suspension ropes?

The suspension ropes must be long enough to allow the scaffold to be lowered to the level below without the rope passing through the hoist, or the end of the rope configured to prevent the end from passing through the hoist. 1926.451(d)(6)

The standard prohibits using repaired wire. 1926.451(d)(7)

Drum hoists must contain no less than four wraps of the rope at the lowest point. 1926.451(d)(6)

Employers must replace wire rope when the following conditions exist: kinks; six randomly broken wires in one rope lay or three broken wires in one strand in one lay; one third of the original diameter of the outside wires is lost; heat damage; evidence that the secondary brake has engaged the rope; and any other physical damage that impairs the function and strength of the rope. 1926.451(d)(10)

Suspension ropes supporting adjustable suspension scaffolds must be a diameter large enough to provide sufficient surface area for the functioning of brake and hoist mechanisms. 1926.451(f)(10)

Suspension ropes must be shielded from heat-producing processes. 1926.451(f)(11)

What are some of the requirements for manually operated suspension scaffold hoists?

Manually operated hoists used to raise or lower a suspended scaffold must be tested and listed by a qualified testing laboratory. 1926.451(d)(13)

These hoists require a positive crank force to descend. 1926.451(d)(17)

When can welding be done from a suspension scaffold?

Welding can be done from suspended scaffolds when:

- A grounding conductor is connected from the scaffold to the structure and is at least the size of the welding lead;
- The grounding conductor is not attached in series with the welding process or the work piece;
- An insulating material covers the suspension wire rope and extends at least four feet (1.2 meters) above the hoist;
- Insulated protective covers cover the hoist;
- The tail line is guided, retained, or both, so that it does not become grounded;
- Each suspension rope is attached to an insulated thimble; and
- Each suspension rope and any other independent lines are insulated from grounding. 1926.451(f)(17)

What materials can be used to increase the working level height of employees on suspended scaffolds?

No materials or devices may be used to increase the working height on a suspension scaffold. This includes ladders, boxes, and barrels. 1926.451(f)(14) and (15)

General Requirements for Scaffolds §1926.451
Access Requirements

What are the requirements for access to scaffolds?

Employers must provide access when the scaffold platforms are more than 2 feet (0.6 meters) above or below a point of access. 1926.451(e)(1)

Direct access is acceptable when the scaffold is not more than 14 inches (36 centimeters) horizontally and not more than 24 inches (61 centimeters) vertically from the other surfaces. 1926.451(e)(8)

The standard prohibits the use of crossbraces as a means of access. 1926.451(e)(1)

What types of access can be used?

Several types of access are permitted:
- Ladders, such as portable, hook-on, attachable, and stairway 1926.451(e)(2),
- Stair towers 1926.451(e)(4),
- Ramps and walkways 1926.451(e)(5), and
- Integral prefabricated frames (1926.451(e)(6).

What are the access requirements for employees erecting and dismantling supported scaffolds?

Employees erecting and dismantling supported scaffolding must have a safe means of access provided when a competent person has determined the feasibility and analyzed the site conditions. 1926.451(e)

Use Requirements

Does the standard prohibit any types of scaffolds?

Shore and lean-to scaffolds are strictly prohibited. 1926.451(f)(2)

Also, employees are prohibited from working on scaffolds covered with snow, ice, or other slippery materials, except to remove these substances. 1926.451(f)(8)

What are the clearance distances between scaffolds and powerlines?

The standard requires specific clearance distances. See page 42 of this publication and 1926.451(f)(6) for a table listing those distances.

Fall Protection Requirements

What is fall protection?

Fall protection includes guardrail systems and personal fall arrest systems. Guardrail systems are explained below in another question. Personal fall arrest systems include harnesses, components of the harness/belt such as Dee-rings, and snap hooks, lifelines, and anchorage point. 1926.451(g)(3)

Vertical or horizontal lifelines may be used. 1926.451(g)(3)(ii) through (iv)

Lifelines must be independent of support lines and suspension ropes and not attached to the same anchorage point as the support or suspension ropes. 1926.451(g)(3)(iii) and (iv)

When working from an aerial lift, attach the fall arrest system to the boom or basket. 1926.453(b)(2)(v)

What are the fall protection requirements for all scaffolds?

Employers must provide fall protection for each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet (3.1 meters) above a lower level. 1926.451(g)(1)

A competent person must determine the feasibility and safety of providing fall protection for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds. 1926.451(g)(2)

How will I know what kind of fall protection to provide for a specific-type of scaffold?

The chart on the next page illustrates the type of fall protection required for specific scaffolds.
When can personal fall arrest systems be used when working on scaffolding and aerial lifts?

Personal fall arrest systems can be used on scaffolding when there are no guardrail systems. 1926.451(g)(1)(vii)

Use fall arrest systems when working from the following types of scaffolding: boatswains’ chair, catenary, float, needle beam, ladder, and pump jack. 1926.451(g)(1)

Use fall arrest systems also when working from the boom/basket of an aerial lift. 1926.453(b)(2)(v)

When are both fall arrest and guardrail systems required?

Fall arrest and guardrail systems must be used when working on single- and two-point adjustable suspension scaffolds and self-contained adjustable scaffolds that are supported by ropes. 1926.451(g)(1)

Falling Object Protection

What protections from overhead falling objects do the standards require?

To protect employees from falling hand tools, debris, and other small objects, install toeboards, screens, guardrail systems, debris nets, catch platforms, canopy structures, or barricades. In addition, employees must wear hard hats. 1926.451(h)(1) & (2) and (3)
Specific Scaffold Requirements §1926.452

Are there additional requirements for specific types of scaffolds?

The standard addresses other requirements for specific types of scaffolds such as mobile, ladder, and pump jack, fabricated frame, and tube and coupler scaffolds. These are found in §1926.452, “Additional Requirements Applicable to Specific Types of Scaffolds.”

Aerial Lift Requirements §1926.453

What are aerial lifts?

Vehicle-mounted aerial devices used to elevate employees—such as extensible boom platforms, aerial lifts, articulating boom platforms, and vertical towers—are considered “aerial lifts.”

Do aerial lifts and mobile scaffolds have the same requirements?

The §1926.453 and §1926.454 standards apply to aerial lifts. The §1926.451, 1926.452, and 1926.454 standards apply to mobile scaffolds.

What are some of the specific requirements for aerial lifts?

Some specific requirements include the following:
- Only authorized personnel can operate aerial lifts.
- The manufacturer or equivalent must certify any modification.
- The insulated portion must not be altered to reduce its insulating value.
- Lift controls must be tested daily.
- Controls must be clearly marked.
- Brakes must be set and outriggers used.
- Boom and basket load limits must not be exceeded.
- Employees must wear personal fall arrest systems, with the lanyard attached to the boom or basket.
- No devices to raise the employee above the basket floor can be used. §1926.453(b)
What are the training standards for employees who work on scaffolds?

All employees who work on a scaffold must be trained by a person qualified to recognize the hazards associated with the type of scaffold used and to understand the procedures to control and minimize those hazards. 1926.454(a)

What are the training standards for employees who work, erect, dismantle, move, operate, repair, maintain, or inspect scaffolds?

A competent person must train all employees who erect, disassemble, move, operate, repair, maintain, or inspect scaffolds. Training must cover the nature of the hazards, the correct procedures for erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, inspecting, and maintaining the type of scaffold in use. 1926.454(b)

Other recommended training topics include erection and dismantling, planning, personal protective equipment, access, guys and braces, and parts inspection. Appendix D

What are the retraining requirements for employees working on scaffolds?

The standard requires retraining when (1) no employee training has taken place for the worksite changes, scaffold changes, or falling object protection changes; or (2) where the employer believes the employee lacks the necessary skill, understanding, or proficiency to work safely. 1926.454(c)
Why are the Appendices to the Subpart L scaffolding standards important? Do they address standard requirements?

All of the appendices are non-mandatory and contain selection criteria for planks; American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard references for aerial lifts; criteria for determining the feasibility of providing safe access and fall protection, and training for erectors and dismantlers; and drawings of various types of scaffolds and components.

To summarize, Appendix A of Subpart L addresses scaffold specifications and provides non-mandatory guidelines to assist employers in complying with Subpart L requirements. These guidelines and tables provide a starting point for designing scaffold systems; however, they do not provide all the information necessary to build a complete system. Therefore, the employer is still responsible for designing and assembling these components so that the completed system meets the final rule requirements in 1926.451(a).

Appendix C lists national consensus standards related to aerial, vehicle mounted, manually propelled, self-propelled, mast climbing, and other such devices.

Appendix D serves as a guide to assist employers when evaluating the training needs for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds.

Appendix E provides drawings of particular types of scaffolds and scaffold components as well as graphic illustrations of bracing patterns and tie-spacing patterns.
How can OSHA help me?

OSHA can provide extensive help through a variety of programs, including assistance about safety and health programs, state plans, workplace consultations, voluntary protection programs, strategic partnerships, training and education, and more.

How does safety and health program management help employers and employees?

Effective management of worker safety and health protection is a decisive factor in reducing the extent and severity of work-related injuries and illnesses and their related costs. In fact, an effective safety and health management system forms the basis of good worker protection and can save time and money—about $4 for every dollar spent—and increase productivity.

To assist employers and employees in developing effective safety and health programs, OSHA published recommended Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines (Federal Register 54(18):3904-3916, January 26, 1989). These voluntary guidelines can be applied to all worksites covered by OSHA.

The guidelines identify four general elements that are critical to the development of a successful safety and health management program:

• Management leadership and employee participation,
• Worksite analysis,
• Hazard prevention and control, and
• Safety and health training.

The guidelines recommend specific actions under each of these general elements to achieve an effective safety and health program. The Federal Register notice is available online at www.osha.gov.

What are state plans?

State plans are OSHA-approved job safety and health programs operated by individual states or territories instead of Federal OSHA. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA Act) encourages states to develop and operate their own job safety and health plans and permits state enforcement of OSHA standards if the state has an approved plan. Once OSHA approves a state plan, it funds 50 percent of the program’s operating costs. State plans must provide standards and enforcement programs, as well as voluntary compliance activities, that are at least as effective as those of Federal OSHA.

There are 26 state plans: 23 cover both private and public (state and local government) employment, and 3 (Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York) cover only the public sector. For more information on state plans, see the listing at the end of this publication, or visit OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov.

How can consultation assistance help employers?

In addition to helping employers identify and correct specific hazards, OSHA’s consultation service provides free, onsite assistance in developing and implementing effective workplace safety and health management systems that emphasize the comprehensive consultation assistance provided by OSHA includes a hazard survey of the worksite and an appraisal of all aspects of the employer’s existing safety and health management system. In addition, the service offers assistance to employers in developing and implementing an effective safety and health management system. Employers also may receive training and education services, as well as limited assistance away from the worksite.

Who can get consultation assistance and what does it cost?

Consultation assistance is available to small employers (with fewer than 250 employees at a fixed site and no more than 500 corporatewide) who want help in establishing and maintaining a safe and healthful workplace.

Funded largely by OSHA, the service is provided at no cost to the employer. Primarily developed for smaller employers with more hazardous operations, the consultation service is delivered by state governments employing professional safety and health consultants. No penalties are proposed or citations issued for hazards identified by the consultant. The employer’s only obligation is to correct all identified serious hazards within the agreed upon correction time frame. OSHA provides consultation assistance to the employer with the
assurance that his or her name and firm and any information about the workplace will not be routinely reported to OSHA enforcement staff.

**Can OSHA assure privacy to an employer who asks for consultation assistance?**

OSHA provides consultation assistance to the employer with the assurance that his or her name and firm and any information about the workplace will not be routinely reported to OSHA enforcement staff.

**Can an employer be cited for violations after receiving consultation assistance?**

If an employer fails to eliminate or control a serious hazard within the agreed-upon time frame, the consultation project manager must refer the situation to the OSHA enforcement office for appropriate action. This is a rare occurrence, however, since employers request the service for the expressed purpose of identifying and fixing hazards in their workplaces.

**Does OSHA provide any incentives for seeking consultation assistance?**

Yes. Under the consultation program, certain exemplary employers may request participation in OSHA’s Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). Eligibility for participation in SHARP includes, but is not limited to, receiving a full-service, comprehensive consultation visit, correcting all identified hazards, and developing an effective safety and health management system.

Employers accepted into SHARP may receive an exemption from programmed inspections (not complaint or accident investigation inspections) for a period of 1 year initially, or 2 years upon renewal. For more information concerning consultation assistance, see the list of consultation directory at the end of this publication, contact your regional or area OSHA office, or visit OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov.

**What are the Voluntary Protection Programs?**

Voluntary Protection Programs (VPPs) represent one part of OSHA’s effort to extend worker protection beyond the minimum required by OSHA standards. VPP—along with onsite consultation services, full-service area offices, and OSHA’s Strategic Partnership Program (OSPP)—represents a cooperative approach which, when coupled with an effective enforcement program, expands worker protection to help meet the goals of the *OSH Act*.

**How do the Voluntary Protection Programs work?**

There are three levels of VPPs: Star, Merit, and Demonstration. All are designed to do the following:

- Recognize employers who have successfully developed and implemented effective and comprehensive safety and health management systems;
- Encourage these employers to continuously improve their safety and health management systems;
- Motivate other employers to achieve excellent safety and health results in the same outstanding way; and
- Establish a relationship between employers, employees, and OSHA that is based on cooperation.

**How does VPP help employers and employees?**

VPP participation can mean the following:

- Reduced numbers of worker fatalities, injuries, and illnesses;
- Lost-workday case rates generally 50 percent below industry averages;
- Lower workers’ compensation and other injury- and illness-related costs;
- Improved employee motivation to work safely, leading to a better quality of life at work;
- Positive community recognition and interaction;
- Further improvement and revitalization of already good safety and health programs; and a
- Positive relationship with OSHA.

**How does OSHA monitor VPP sites?**

OSHA reviews an employer’s VPP application and conducts a VPP Onsite Evaluation to verify that the safety and health management systems
described are operating effectively at the site. OSHA conducts onsite evaluations on a regular basis, annually for participants at the Demonstration level, every 18 months for Merit, and every 3 to 5 years for Star. Each February, all participants must send a copy of their most recent annual evaluation to their OSHA regional office. This evaluation must include the worksite’s record of injuries and illnesses for the past year.

Can OSHA inspect an employer who is participating in the VPP?

Sites participating in VPP are not scheduled for regular, programmed inspections. OSHA handles any employee complaints, serious accidents, or significant chemical releases that may occur at VPP sites according to routine enforcement procedures. Additional information on VPP is available from OSHA national, regional, and area offices, listed at the end of this booklet. Also, see Outreach on OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov.

How can a partnership with OSHA improve worker safety and health?

OSHA has learned firsthand that voluntary, cooperative partnerships with employers, employees, and unions can be a useful alternative to traditional enforcement and an effective way to reduce worker deaths, injuries, and illnesses. This is especially true when a partnership leads to the development and implementation of comprehensive workplace safety and health management system.

What is OSHA’s Strategic Partnership Program (OSPP)?

OSHA Strategic Partnerships are alliances among labor, management, and government to foster improvements in workplace safety and health. These partnerships are voluntary, cooperative relationships between OSHA, employers, employee representatives, and others such as trade unions, trade and professional associations, universities, and other government agencies. OSPPs are the newest member of OSHA’s family of cooperative programs.

What do OSPPs do?

These partnerships encourage, assist, and recognize the efforts of the partners to eliminate serious workplace hazards and achieve a high level of worker safety and health. Whereas OSHA’s Consultation Program and VPP entail one-on-one relationships between OSHA and individual worksites, most strategic partnerships seek to have a broader impact by building cooperative relationships with groups of employers and employees.

Are there different kinds of OSPPs?

There are two major types:

• Comprehensive, which focus on establishing comprehensive safety and health management systems at partnering worksites; and

• Limited, which help identify and eliminate hazards associated with worker deaths, injuries, and illnesses, or have goals other than establishing comprehensive worksite safety and health programs.

OSHA is interested in creating new OSPPs at the national, regional, and local levels. OSHA also has found limited partnerships to be valuable. Limited partnerships might address the elimination or control of a specific industry hazard.

What are the benefits of participation in the OSHA Strategic Partnership Program?

Like VPP, OSPP can mean the following:

• Fewer worker fatalities, injuries, and illnesses;

• Lower workers’ compensation and other injury- and illness-related costs;

• Improved employee motivation to work safely, leading to a better quality of life at work and enhanced productivity;

• Positive community recognition and interaction;

• Development of or improvement in safety and health management systems; and

• Positive interaction with OSHA.

For more information about this program, contact your nearest OSHA office or go to the agency website at www.osha.gov.
Does OSHA have occupational safety and health training for employers and employees?

Yes. The OSHA Training Institute in Des Plaines, IL, provides basic and advanced training and education in safety and health for federal and state compliance officers, state consultants, other federal agency personnel, and private-sector employers, employees, and their representatives.

Institute courses cover diverse safety and health topics including electrical hazards, machine guarding, personal protective equipment, ventilation, and ergonomics. The facility includes classrooms, laboratories, a library, and an audiovisual unit. The laboratories contain various demonstrations and equipment, such as power presses, woodworking and welding shops, a complete industrial ventilation unit, and a sound demonstration laboratory. More than 57 courses dealing with subjects such as safety and health in the construction industry and methods of compliance with OSHA standards are available for personnel in the private sector.

In addition, OSHA’s 73 area offices are full-service centers offering a variety of informational services such as personnel for speaking engagements, publications, audiovisual aids on workplace hazards, and technical advice.

For more information on grants, training, and education, write: OSHA Training Institute, Office of Training and Education, 1555 Times Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018; call (847) 297-4810; or see Outreach on OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov.

Does OSHA give money to organizations for training and education?

OSHA awards grants through its Susan Harwood Training Grant Program to nonprofit organizations to provide safety and health training and education to employers and workers in the workplace. The grants focus on programs that will educate workers and employers in small business (fewer than 250 employees), training workers and employers about new OSHA standards or about high risk activities or hazards. Grants are awarded for 1 year and may be renewed for an additional 12 months depending on whether the grantee has performed satisfactorily.

OSHA expects each organization awarded a grant to develop a training and/or education program that addresses a safety and health topic named by OSHA, recruit workers and employers for the training, and conduct the training. Grantees are also expected to follow up with people who have been trained to find out what changes were made to reduce the hazards in their workplaces as a result of the training.

Each year OSHA has a national competition that is announced in the Federal Register and on the Internet at www.osha-slc.gov/Training/sharwood/sharwood.html. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can contact the OSHA Office of Training and Education, 1555 Times Drive, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018, (847) 297-4810, for more information.

Does OSHA have other assistance materials available?

Yes. OSHA has a variety of materials and tools available on its website at www.osha.gov. These include e-Tools, Expert Advisors, Electronic Compliance Assistance Tools (e-CA Ts), Technical Links, regulations, directives, publications, videos, and other information for employers and employees. OSHA’s software programs and compliance assistance tools walk you through challenging safety and health issues and common problems to find the best solutions for your workplace. OSHA’s comprehensive publications program includes more than 100 titles to help you understand OSHA requirements and programs.


What do I do in case of an emergency? Or if I need to file a complaint?

To report an emergency, file a complaint, or seek OSHA advice, assistance, or products, call (800) 321-OSHA or contact your nearest OSHA regional or area office listed at the end of this publication. The teletypewriter (TTY) number is (877) 889-5627.

You can also file a complaint online and obtain more information on OSHA federal and state programs by visiting OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov.
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<td>Boston, MA 02203</td>
<td>Dallas, TX 75202</td>
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<td>(617) 565-9860</td>
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<td>New York, NY 10014</td>
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<tr>
<td>(212) 337-2378</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO 64105</td>
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<tr>
<td>170 S. Independence Mall West</td>
<td>Denver, CO 80202-5716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suite 740 West</td>
<td>(303) 844-1600</td>
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<td>61 Forsyth Street, SW, Room 6T50</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA 94105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta, GA 30303</td>
<td>(415) 975-4310</td>
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<td>230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3244</td>
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<td>Chicago, IL 60604</td>
<td>Seattle, WA 98101-3212</td>
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<td>(312) 353-2220</td>
<td>(206) 553-5930</td>
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**OSHA Area Offices**

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<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>(907) 271-5152</td>
<td>Hasbrouck Heights, NJ</td>
<td>(201) 288-1700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
<td>(205) 731-1534</td>
<td>Marlton, NJ</td>
<td>(856) 757-5181</td>
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<td>Mobile, AL</td>
<td>(251) 441-6131</td>
<td>Parsippany, NJ</td>
<td>(973) 263-1003</td>
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<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>(501) 324-6291</td>
<td>Carson City, NV</td>
<td>(775) 885-6963</td>
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<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>(602) 640-2348</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>(518) 464-4338</td>
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<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>(619) 557-5909</td>
<td>Bayside, NY</td>
<td>(718) 279-9060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramento, CA</td>
<td>(916) 566-7471</td>
<td>Bowersville, NY</td>
<td>(716) 684-3891</td>
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<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>(303) 844-5285</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>(212) 337-2636</td>
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<td>(303) 843-4500</td>
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<td>(315) 451-0808</td>
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<td>(203) 579-5581</td>
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<td>(860) 240-3152</td>
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<td>Wilmington, DE</td>
<td>(302) 573-6518</td>
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<td>Fort Lauderdale, FL</td>
<td>(954) 424-0242</td>
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<td>(361) 888-3420</td>
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<td>(847) 803-4800</td>
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<td>Linthicum, MD</td>
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<td>Raleigh, NC</td>
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<td>Avenel, NJ</td>
<td>(732) 750-3270</td>
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OSHA-Approved Safety and Health Plans

Alaska
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Commissioner (907) 465-2700 Fax: (907) 465-2784
Program Director (907) 269-4904
Fax: (907) 269-4915

Arizona
Industrial Commission of Arizona
Director, ICA (602) 542-4411 Fax: (602) 542-1614
Program Director (602) 542-5795
Fax: (602) 542-1614

California
California Department of Industrial Relations
Director (415) 703-5050 Fax: (415) 703-5114
Chief (415) 703-5100 Fax: (415) 703-5114
Manager, Cal/OSHA Program Office
(415) 703-5177 Fax: (415) 703-5114

Connecticut
Connecticut Department of Labor
Commissioner (860) 566-5123 Fax: (860) 566-1520
Conn-OSHA Director (860) 566-4550
Fax: (860) 566-6916

Hawaii
Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Director (808) 586-8844 Fax: (808) 586-9099
Administrator (808) 586-9116 Fax: (808) 586-9104

Indiana
Indiana Department of Labor
Commissioner (317) 232-2378 Fax: (317) 233-3790
Deputy Commissioner (317) 232-3325
Fax: (317) 233-3790

Iowa
Iowa Division of Labor
Commissioner (515) 281-6432 Fax: (515) 281-4698
Administrator (515) 281-3469 Fax: (515) 281-7995

Kentucky
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Montana
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(406) 444-4140 FAX
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<tr>
<td>Slip resistant finishes</td>
<td>1926.451(b)(9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stall load</td>
<td>1926.450(b), .451(a)(2) and (a)(4) and (a)(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step ladder scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.452(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stilts</td>
<td>1926.452(y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonesetters’ multi-point suspension scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.452(q)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.450(b), and .451(a), (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), and .454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.451 (a), (d), (e), (f), (g)(1)(i), (ii), (iv), (g)(3), (4), (h), and .452(o)-(q), (s), (t), (v), (x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tag lines</td>
<td>1926.451(f)(9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiebacks</td>
<td>1926.451(d)(3)(vii), (ix), (x) and (5)(iii), (iv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie-ins</td>
<td>1926.451(c)(1) and (d)(18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipping</td>
<td>1926.451(c)(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toeboards</td>
<td>1926.451(h)(1), (2)(ii), (iii) &amp; (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower trucks</td>
<td>1926.453(b)(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>1926.454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trestle ladder scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.452(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube and coupler scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.452(b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-point adjustable suspension scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.451(a), (d), (e), (f), (g)(1)(i), (ii), (iv), (g)(3), (4), (h), and .452(p) &amp; .454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical lifelines</td>
<td>1926.451(g)(3)(i), (iv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkways</td>
<td>1926.451(e)(5)(i) to (iii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>1926.451(f)(8) and (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding from suspension scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.451(f)(17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire rope clips</td>
<td>1926.451(d)(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window jack scaffolds</td>
<td>1926.452(l)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This guideline is to assist the compliance officer to determine if there is an effective project plan to qualify for a Focused Inspection.

**PROJECT SAFETY AND HEALTH COORDINATION:** Are there procedures in place by the general contractor, prime contractor, or other such entity to ensure that all employers provide adequate protection for their employees?

**Is there a DESIGNATED COMPETENT PERSON** responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the project safety and health plan who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards and has authority to take prompt corrective measures?

**PROJECT SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM/PLAN** that complies with 1926 Subpart C and addresses, based upon the size and complexity of the project, the following:

- Project Safety Analysis at initiation and at critical stages that describes the sequence, procedures, and responsible individuals for safe construction.
- Identification of work/activities requiring planning, design, inspection, or supervision by an engineer, competent person, or other professional.
- Evaluation monitoring of subcontractors to determine conformance with the Project Plan. (The Project Plan may include, or be utilized by subcontractors.)
- Supervisor and employee training according to the Project Plan including recognition, reporting, and avoidance of hazards, and applicable standards.
- Procedures for controlling hazardous operations such as: cranes, scaffolding, trenches, confined spaces, hot work, explosives, hazardous materials, leading edges, etc.
- Documentation of: training, permits, hazard reports, inspections, uncorrected hazards, incidents, and near misses.
- Employee involvement in the hazard: analysis, prevention, avoidance, correction, and reporting.
- Project emergency response plan.

* For examples, see Owner and Contractor Association Model Programs, ANSI A10.33, A10.38, etc.

The walkthrough and interviews confirmed that the Plan has been implemented, including:

- The four leading hazards are addressed: falls, struck by, caught in/between, electrical.
- Hazards are identified and corrected with preventative measures instituted in a timely manner.
- Employees and supervisors are knowledgeable of the project safety and health plan, avoidance of hazards, applicable standards, and their rights and responsibilities.

**THE PROJECT QUALIFIED FOR A FOCUSED INSPECTION.**