

Mobile Scaffold Basics

Mobile scaffolds are a type of supported scaffold set on wheels or casters. They are designed to be easily moved and are commonly used for tasks where workers must frequently change position, such as painting and plastering. When used properly, they are safe and usually a lot safer than trying to work from a ladder.

General Requirements

- Assemble the rolling scaffold according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Scaffolds must be plumb, level, and squared.
- To prevent collapse of the scaffold, secure vertical members together laterally. Scaffolds must be braced by cross-braces, horizontal braces, diagonal braces, or a combination of braces. All brace connections must be secured.
- Outrigger frames, when used, should be installed on both sides of the scaffold
- To prevent movement of the scaffold while it is being used in a stationary position, scaffold casters and wheels must be locked.
- Caster stems and wheel stems must be pinned or otherwise secured in scaffold legs or adjustment screws.
- Platforms must not extend beyond the base supports of the scaffold, unless stability is ensured by outrigger frames or equivalent devices.
- Leveling of the scaffold, where necessary, must be achieved by the use of screw jacks or equivalent means.
- No employee should be on any part of the scaffold which extends outward beyond the wheels, casters, or other supports
- Manual force used to move the scaffold must be applied as close to the base as practical, but not more than five feet above the supporting surface.
- Power systems used to propel mobile scaffolds must be designed for that purpose. When power systems are used, the propelling force is applied directly to the wheels and does not produce a speed in excess of one foot per second.
- Employees are not allowed to ride on scaffolds unless the surface on which the scaffold is being moved is within three degrees of level and free of pits, holes, and obstructions. Before a scaffold is moved, each employee on the scaffold must be made aware of the move.



References

OSHA standard 1926 Subpart L - Scaffolds

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