

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Basic Scaffold Safety – Identifying Different Types of Scaffolds

[Reference 1910 Subpart D / 1926 Subpart L]

OSHA generically defines a scaffold as “*any temporary elevated platform, supported or suspended, and its supporting structure, including points of anchorage, used for supporting employees or materials or both*”. However, there are many types of scaffolding available, and most have their own specific regulations for use. So this seems like a good time to address identifying several of the scaffolds that are covered in the OSHA scaffold standards. (**NOTE:** Refer everyone to the handout that comes with this toolbox talk).

- **Supported scaffold** means one or more platforms supported by outrigger beams, brackets, poles, legs, uprights, posts, frames, or similar rigid support. There are many types of supported scaffold discussed below.

- **Suspension scaffold** is one or more platforms suspended by ropes or other non-rigid means from an overhead structure, or structures. There are also several types of suspension scaffold discussed below.

- **Adjustable suspension scaffold** means a suspension scaffold equipped with a hoist(s) that can be operated by an employee(s) on the scaffold. This includes single-point adjustable and two-point swing stage scaffolds.

- **Fabricated frame scaffold**, also known as tubular welded frame scaffold, means a supported scaffold consisting of a platform, or platforms, supported on fabricated end frames with integral posts, horizontal bearers, and intermediate members.

- **Form scaffold** is defined as a supported scaffold consisting of a platform supported by brackets attached to formwork.

- **Horse scaffold** means a supported scaffold consisting of a platform supported by saw horses. Horse scaffolds constructed of metal are sometimes known as trestle scaffolds.

- **Ladder jack scaffold** is defined by OSHA as a supported scaffold consisting of a platform resting on brackets attached to ladders.

- **Mobile scaffold** means a powered or unpowered, portable, caster or wheel-mounted supported scaffold.

- **Pole scaffold** is a supported scaffold consisting of a platform resting on cross beams supported by ledgers and a single row of uprights and the inner ends of which are supported on or in a structure or building wall (this is called a *single pole scaffold*), or on a double row of uprights independent of support, except ties, guys, braces, from any structure (this is called a *double pole scaffold*).

- **Pump jack scaffold** means a supported scaffold consisting of a platform supported by vertical poles and movable support brackets.

- **Self-contained adjustable scaffold** is a combination supported and suspension scaffold consisting of an adjustable platform, or platforms, mounted on an independent supporting frame, or frames, not a part of the object being worked on, and which is equipped with a means to permit the raising and lowering of the platforms. Such systems include rolling roof rigs, rolling outrigger systems, and some masons' adjustable supported scaffolds.

- **Tube and coupler scaffold** means a supported or suspended scaffold consisting of a platform supported by tubing, erected with coupling devices connecting uprights, braces, bearers, and runners.

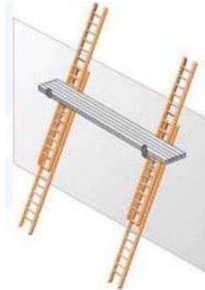
- And last but not least is a **Lean-to scaffold**, which is a supported scaffold that is kept erect by tilting it toward and resting it against a building or structure. Be aware that a Lean-to scaffold, along with the similar **Shore scaffolds**, are **strictly forbidden** by OSHA, and should never be used for any purposes on our jobsites.

While this list in no way identifies each and every type of scaffolding available, it does help us identify some of the more common types of scaffolds we will cover in our toolbox talks. Thank you for your participation, and please be sure to sign your name on the training certification form for today's session.

Common Types of Scaffolds (source: OSHA)



Fabricated Frame / Tubular Welded Frame Scaffold



Ladder Jack Scaffold



Manually-propelled Mobile Scaffold



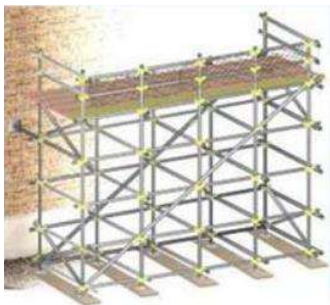
Double Pole Scaffold



Pump Jack Scaffold



Horse Scaffold



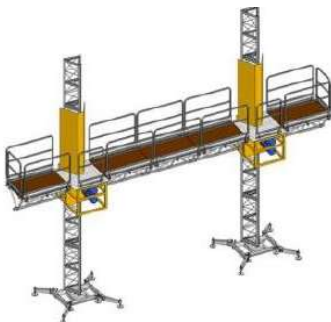
Tube and Coupler Scaffold



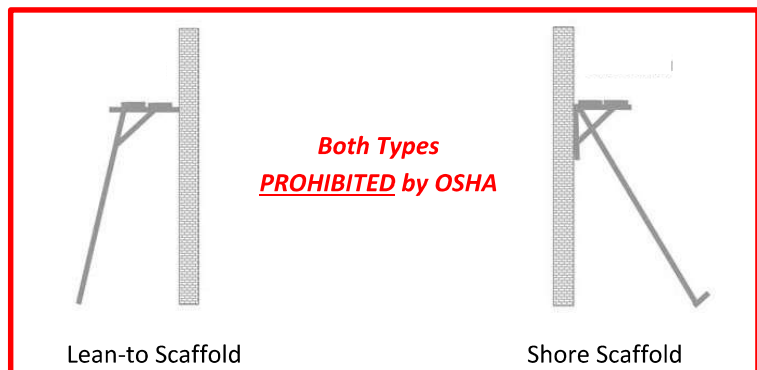
Single-point Adjustable Scaffold



Two-point Swing Stage Scaffold



Self-contained Adjustable Scaffold



Lean-to Scaffold

Shore Scaffold