



ASSE Tech Brief

November 3, 2011



ANSI/ASSE A10.8-2011 Scaffolding Safety Requirements

The new standard, “Scaffolding Safety Requirements” (ANSI/ASSE A10.8-2011), received final ANSI approval on August 31, 2011 and will become effective on February 13, 2012.

The A10.8 standard establishes safety requirements for the construction, operation, maintenance and use of scaffolds used in the construction, alteration, demolition and maintenance of buildings and structures. It does not cover permanently installed suspended scaffold systems or aerial platforms.

Past versions of the A10.8 standard include:

Originally approved: 1969

Revised: 1977

Revised: 1988

Reaffirmed: 1997

Revised: 2001

Current: 2011

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Scope

This standard establishes safety requirements for the construction, operation, maintenance and use of scaffolds used in the construction, alteration, demolition and maintenance of buildings and structures. This standard does not cover permanently installed suspended scaffold systems or aerial platforms.

The following related American National Standards may better apply to specific equipment, applications or operations.

ANSI/SIA A39.1, *Safety Requirements for Window Cleaning*
ANSI/SIA A92.2, *Vehicle Mounted Elevating and Rotating Aerial Devices*
ANSI/SIA A92.3, *Manually Propelled Elevating Work Platforms*
ANSI/SIA A92.5, *Boom-Supported Elevated Work Platforms*
ANSI/SIA A92.6, *Self-Propelled Elevating Work Platforms*
ANSI/SIA A92.7, *Safety Requirements for Airline Ground Support Vehicle-Mounted Vertical Lift Devices*
ANSI/ASME A120.1, *Safety Requirements for Powered Platforms and Traveling Ladders and Gantries for Building Maintenance*
ANSI/NEMA Z535.1, *Safety Color Code*
ANSI/NEMA Z535.2, *Environmental and Facility Safety Signs*
ANSI/NEMA Z535.3, *Criteria for Safety Symbols*
ANSI/NEMA Z535.4, *Product Safety Signs and Labels*

ANSI/NEMA Z535.5, *Accident Prevention Tags*

Purpose

This standard is designed to provide reasonable safety for life and limb of those engaged in occupations requiring the use of scaffolding.

Exceptions

In cases of practical difficulties, unnecessary hardships or new developments, exceptions to the literal requirements may permit the use of other devices or methods, but only when it is clearly indicated by a qualified person that the equivalent protection is thereby secured.

Mandatory & Advisory Rules

Mandatory rules of this standard are characterized by the word “shall”. If a rule is of an advisory nature, it is indicated by the word “should” or is stated as a recommendation.

Equivalent

The word “equivalent” in this standard shall mean alternative materials, designs or features that will provide an equal degree of strength and safety.

Referenced Publications

This standard is intended for use in conjunction with the following publications.

American National Standards

When the referenced standards are superseded by a revision approved by ANSI, the revision shall apply.

ANSI/ASSE A10.32, *Fall Protection Systems for Construction and Demolitions*
ANSI/ASSE A10.33, *Safety and Health Program Requirements for Multi-Employer Projects*
ANSI/ALI A14.1, *Ladders – Portable Wood, Safety Requirements*
ANSI/ALI A14.2, *Ladders – Portable Metal, Safety Requirements*
ANSI/ALI A14.5, *Ladders – Portable Reinforced Plastic, Safety Requirements*
ANSI/NEMA ICS/1, *General Standards for Industrial Controls and Systems*
ANSI/NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*
ANSI/NFPA 70B, *Electrical Equipment Maintenance*
ANSI/NFPA 70E, *Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces*
ANSI/NFPA 241, *Safeguarding Construction, Alteration and Demolition Operations*
ANSI/SSFI SC100, *Standards for Testing and Rating Scaffold Assemblies and Components*
ANSI/SSFI SPS 1.1, *Standard Requirements and Test Methods for Testing and Rating Portable Rigging Devices for Suspended Scaffolds*
ANSI/UL 1322, *Fabricated Scaffold Planks and Stages*
ANSI/UL 1323, *Scaffold Hoists*
ANSI/ASSE Z359, *Fall Protection Code*

Other Standards

ACI 316R, *Recommendations for Construction of Concrete Pavements and Concrete Bases*

APA J20D, *Product Guide, Grade and Specifications*

ASTM A668/A668M, *Specification for Steel Forgings, Carbon and Alloy for General Industrial Use*

ASTM A47/A47M, *Standard Specification for Ferritic Malleable Iron Castings*

ASTM B247-02a, *Standard Specification for Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Die Forgings, Hand Forgings and Rolled Ring Forgings*

National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce, Voluntary Product Standard PS 20-05, *American Softwood Lumber Standard*

UL 1323, *Standard for Scaffold Hoists*

Other Publications

Steel Products Manual: Carbon Steel Wire and Rods, Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST), Warrendale, PA

Certified Agencies and Typical Grade Stamps, American Lumber Standards Committee, Germantown, MD

National Design Specification[®] for Wood Construction, National Forest Products Association, Washington, DC

Definitions

Adjustable Scaffold. A scaffold structure with a manually elevating carriage that supports work and material platforms.

Anchorage. A secure point of attachment for lifelines, lanyards, deceleration devices or tiebacks.

Angulated Roping. A system of stage suspension in which the upper rope sheaves or suspension points are closer to the plane of the building face than the corresponding attachment points on the stage, thus causing the unit to press against the face of the building during its vertical travel.

Babbitted Fastenings. The method of providing wire rope attachments in which the ends of the wire strands are bent back and are held in a tapered socket by means of poured molten babbitt metal.

Base Plate. A device used to distribute the vertical load.

Bearer. A horizontal member of a scaffold upon which the platform unit rests and that may be supported by runners.

Boatswains' Chair. A suspended seat designed to accommodate one worker in a sitting position.

Boatswains' Stand. A suspended stand designed to accommodate one worker in a standing position.

Body Harness, Full. Straps that are secured about an employee in a manner that distributes the arresting forces over at least the thighs, shoulders and pelvis with provisions for attaching a lanyard, lifeline or deceleration device.

Brace. A device that holds one scaffold member in a fixed position with respect to another member.

Bracket Form Scaffold. A wood or metal bracket that is attached to a wall form, and upon which scaffold planks rest, for the purpose of providing an elevated working unit for those engaged in erecting the wall form or placing concrete.

Bricklayers' Square Scaffold. A scaffold composed of framed wood squares that support a unit and that is limited to light and medium duty.

Building Face Roller. A guide roller designed to contact a portion of the outer face or wall structure of the building.

Carpenters' Bracket Scaffold. A scaffold consisting of wood or metal brackets supporting a platform.

Catenary Scaffold. A platform unit carried on two horizontal and parallel wire ropes secured to structural members or the equivalent.

Competent Person. One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to employees, and who has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate such hazards.

Control. A system governing starting, stopping, direction, acceleration, speed and retardation of moving members.

Coupler. A device for clamping together component parts of tube and coupler scaffold.

Crossbraces. Two diagonal scaffold members joined at their center to form an "X". Used between frames or uprights or both.

Design Load. The maximum intended load; that is, the total of all loads, including the worker(s), material and the equipment placed on the unit.

Double Pole Scaffold. A scaffold supported from the base by a double row of posts. This scaffold is independent of support from the walls and is constructed of posts, runners, horizontal platform bearers and diagonal bracing.

Electrical Ground. A conducting connection between an electrical circuit or equipment and the earth, or some conducting body that serves in place of the earth.

Elevating Carriage. Movable assembly that supports a work and material platform.

Eye Splicing. A loop made in a wire rope around a formed thimble eye by fastening the end of the rope back on to itself by hand-interweaving and serving.

Fabricated Platform (1-person). Fabricated platform unit of both extendable and fixed-length types used for supporting one worker and limited material. These platforms are usually used with ladder-type scaffolds (see Section 17).

Fabricated Platform (2-person). Fabricated platform unit used to support two workers and limited material. These platform units are usually used with trestles, extension trestles, platforms, stepladders or can be used with stirrups as part of a suspended scaffold, provided they are a minimum of 20 inches wide.

Fabricated Platform (3-person). Fabricated platform unit used to support three workers and limited material. These platforms are usually used with stirrups as part of a suspended scaffold or as a scaffold runner board.

Fabricated Tubular Frame Scaffold. A system of tubular metal frames (panels) field erected with bracing members.

Failure. The condition in which a component or assembly can no longer support the load. (Load Refusal)

Fall Protection. A system designed to prevent or arrest a person's fall.

Float or Ship Scaffold. A scaffold hung from overhead supports by means of ropes and consisting of a unit having diagonal bracing underneath. The scaffold rests upon and is securely fastened to two parallel plank bearers at right angles to the span.

Guardrail System. A rail system erected along the open sides and ends of platforms. The rail system consists of a toprail and midrail and their supports.

Guy. A rope, chain or cable used to stabilize a vertical object.

Hoist. A device intended to be used to raise and lower a suspended scaffold. It may be either manually operated or power-operated.

Horse Scaffold. A scaffold for light or medium duty that is composed of horses supporting a platform.

Independent Pole Scaffold. See Double Pole Scaffold.

Interior Hung Scaffold. A scaffold suspended from the ceiling or roof structure.

Intermittent Tie-Ins. A means of stabilization whereby a scaffold's suspension ropes are secured to permanently installed building anchors and which are located in vertical rows in close proximity to the suspension ropes.

Ladder Jack Scaffold. A light-duty scaffold consisting of a platform supported by brackets attached to single or extension ladders.

Lanyard. A flexible line to secure the wearer of a full body harness to a lifeline, trolley line or a fixed anchor.

Lifeline. A line provided for direct or indirect attachment to a worker's full body harness, lanyard or deceleration device. Such lifelines may be horizontal or vertical in application.

Load Ratings. Maximum loadings for the following categories:

Heavy Duty. A term applying to a scaffold designed and constructed to carry a working load of 75 pounds per square foot (lb/ft²).

Medium Duty. A term applying to a scaffold designed and constructed to carry a working load of 50 pounds per square foot, with weight of material in addition to workers.

Light Duty. A term applying to a scaffold designed and constructed to carry a working load of 25 pounds per square foot.

Special Duty. A term applying to a scaffold designed and constructed to carry specific types of loads.

Manually Propelled Mobile Scaffold. A scaffold assembly supported by casters and moved only manually.

Masons' Adjustable Multiple-Point Suspension Scaffold. A scaffold having a continuous platform supported by bearers suspended by wire rope hoists from overhead supports, so arranged and operated as to permit the raising or lowering of the platform to the desired working positions.

Material Platform. The platform area used for landing and stocking of materials.

Maximum Intended Load. The total load of all workers, equipment, tools and materials.

Midrail. A rail approximately midway between the toprail and platform of a guardrail system.

Mobile Work Stand. A prefabricated mobile scaffold that is designated to be used as a small, highly portable interior scaffolding product. It is a standalone unit that is not intended to be stacked to achieve greater standing/working heights. Platforms are prefabricated specifically for the unit and are adjustable only within a fixed range of heights.

Modular Suspended Platform. A platform that consists of two or more platform sections that are secured together to form a single platform. The platform sections may vary in length and may be used with corner sections to accommodate a specific assembled length.

Multiple-Point Suspended Scaffold. A scaffold supported by more than two active wire ropes from overhead supports so arranged and operated as to permit raising or lowering to desired

working position. Refer to the definition for Masons' Adjustable Multiple-Point Suspension Scaffold.

Multiple-Level Suspended Scaffold. A series of units at various vertical levels so arranged that they are supported by common stirrups. This system may be either two-point or multiple-point suspended.

Needle Beam Scaffold. A platform resting on two suspended bearers that is suspended by a line.

Open Sides and Ends. That portion of a scaffold platform unit that is not protected by a guardrail system, crossbraces, vertical work surfaces or stirrups.

Operating Device. A push-button, lever or other manual device used to actuate a control.

Outrigger. A structural member of a supported beam.

Outrigger Beam. A structural member of a suspended or supported scaffold which provides support for the scaffold by extending the scaffold point of attachment or support to a point out and away from the structure or building

Outrigger Scaffold. A scaffold consisting of a platform supported by an outrigger or projecting beyond the wall or face of the building or structure, the inboard ends of which are secured inside of such building or structure.

Personal Fall Arrest System. An assembly of components and subsystems used to arrest a person in a fall from a working height.

Plank. A wood board or fabricated component that serves as a platform unit. See Plank (Wood, Sawn), Plank (Wood, Laminated) and Plank (Metal).

Plank (Metal). A metal platform unit sized to support one or more workers or uniformly distributed loads. Metal planks would be of similar dimensions as wood planks.

Plank (Wood, Laminated). A platform unit of glue-laminated wood whose method of manufacture and assigned design values contemplate flat use in a scaffolding application. The two types of laminated wood used in scaffold applications are laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and laminated-edge glued lumber (LEG).

Plank (Wood, Sawn). A board of sawn lumber whose grading rules and assigned design values contemplate flat use in a scaffolding application. The plank shall be sized to support one or more workers and materials.

Platform. A general term for an elevated work surface composed of one or more platform units.

Platform Unit. A general term for individual components (planks, scaffold decks or fabricated platforms) that comprise the platform of a scaffold. A platform unit can either stand alone or be used in conjunction with another to form a platform.

Prefabricated Mobile Scaffold. A mobile scaffold system that is manufactured and shipped with all necessary components, with the sole purpose of being used as a mobile scaffold.

Primary Brake. A brake used to stop the hoist and its load under normal operating conditions.

Prime Mover. The motor of a hoist.

Pump Jack Scaffold. A scaffold consisting of vertical poles, platform planking and movable platform brackets that travel on the vertical poles.

Putlog (Truss). A fabricated lattice member designed to carry a concentrated or uniform load.

Qualified Person. One who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training or experience has successfully demonstrated the ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work or the project.

Rated Load. The manufacturer's recommended maximum load.

Roller Bumper. See Building Face Roller.

Roof Hook. An anchoring means used to attach the suspension system employed in a two-point swing scaffold or a single-point cage or boatswains' chair to a building or structure.

Rope Fall. A block and tackle device used to raise and lower a suspended scaffold.

Runner. A horizontal scaffold member that forms a tie between posts and may also support a bearer.

Safety Device. An automatically actuated mechanism to prevent uncontrolled platform descent.

Safety Factor. The ratio of the ultimate breaking strength of a member or piece of material or equipment to the design load when in use.

Safety Screen. A wire or plastic screening that protects the workers and passers-by below from dropped items.

Scaffold. A temporary elevated or suspended work unit and its supporting structure used for supporting worker(s) or materials, or both.

Scaffold Deck. A platform unit designed and constructed to carry at least one person. Scaffold decks are equipped with end hooks that engage the scaffold bearer. Scaffold decks are generally rated for uniformly distributed loads.

Screwjack. A leveling device or jack composed of a threaded screw and an adjustable handle used for the vertical adjustment.

Secondary Brake. A brake that is intended to stop the descent of suspended scaffolds under emergency conditions only.

Sill. A footing (usually wood) which distributes the vertical loads to the ground or slab below.

Single-Point Suspension Scaffold. A scaffold supported by a single wire rope from an overhead support so arranged and operated as to permit the raising or lowering of the platform to desired working position.

Single Pole Scaffold. A unit resting on bearers or cross beams. The outside ends of this unit are supported on runners secured to a single row of posts or uprights, and the inner ends of this unit are supported on or in a wall.

Special-Purpose Scaffold Deck or Fabricated Platform. A platform unit that represents either a modification or a combination of design or construction features in one of the general types of scaffold decks or fabricated platforms previously defined.

Stage. See Fabricated Platform (2-person) and Fabricated Platform (3-person).

Static Line. See Trolley Line.

Stirrup. A device that connects the hoist mechanism to the suspended platform.

Stone Setters Adjustable Multiple-Point Suspension Scaffold. A swinging-type scaffold having a unit supported by putlogs that is suspended at four points so as to permit the raising or lowering of the unit to the desired working position by the use of hoists.

Suspended Scaffold.

Manual. A manually operated scaffold suspended by rope from an overhead supporting system so arranged and operated as to permit raising or lowering to desired working positions.

Powered. A power-operated scaffold suspended by wire rope from an overhead supporting system so arranged and operated as to permit raising or lowering to desired working positions.

Swing. See Two-Point Suspension Scaffold (Swing Scaffold).

Swaged Fitting. A metal sleeve that is cold-formed onto the wire rope.

System Scaffold. A scaffold consisting of posts with fixed connection points that accept runners, bearers and diagonals that can be interconnected at predetermined levels.

Tested Design. Load tested to demonstrate that it can support the required load including appropriate safety factor.

Tie. A device used between scaffold component and the building or structure to enhance lateral stability.

Tieback. An attachment from an anchorage to a supporting device.

Toeboard. A barrier secured along the sides and the ends of a platform unit to guard against the falling of material, tools and other loose objects.

Toprail. The uppermost horizontal rail of a guardrail system.

Traction Drum or Sheave Hoist. A device that does not accumulate the suspension rope, but is designed to climb the rope by the application of a friction force between the rope and the drum or sheave.

Trolley Line. A horizontal wire rope attached to scaffold, stirrups, secondary brakes or secondary wire ropes to which a lanyard is to be attached.

Tube and Coupler Scaffold. A scaffold system consisting of tubing that serves as posts, bearers, braces, ties and runners; a base supporting the posts; and special couplers that serve to connect the uprights and to join the various members.

Two-Point Suspension Scaffold (Swing Scaffold). A scaffold, the platform of which is supported by hangers (stirrups) at two points, and that is suspended from overhead supports so as to permit the raising or lowering of the platform to the desired working position by tackle or hoisting machines.

Vertical Pickup. A device used to control sag in the catenary scaffold's wire rope.

Weatherproof. Equipment so constructed or protected that exposure to the weather will not interfere with its operation.

Winding Drum. A drum that accumulates the suspension rope usually in more than one layer on the surface of the drum.

Window Jack Scaffold. A scaffold, the platform of which is supported by a bracket, that projects through a window opening.

Wire Rope Clip. A reusable wire rope fastener.

Working Load. Load imposed by persons, materials and equipment.

Work Platform. A separate platform on adjustable scaffolds located adjacent to the work area used exclusively by workers.

Zinc Fastenings. The method of providing wire rope attachments in which the ends of the wire strands are bent back and are held in a tapered socket by means of poured molten zinc.

Links and Recognition Examples

Safeguarding: Are ANSI Standards Really Voluntary?

http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/other_documents/safeguarding.aspx?menuid=7

ASSE Position Statement on Consensus Standards

<http://www.asse.org/publications/standards/docs/PositionStatementonConsensusStandards.pdf>

What's the Difference Between an OSHA Rule and an ANSI Standard?

<http://www.asse.org/publications/standards/docs/Dembystandardsarticle3-21-2006.doc>

American National Standards Institute

<http://www.ansi.org/>

OSHA

The link below shows that scaffolding continues to be one of the top most frequently cited standards following inspections of worksites by federal OSHA. ASSE gets significant numbers of calls from members and SH&E professionals each year asking about scaffolding and citations by OSHA:

http://www.osha.gov/Top_Ten_Standards.html

In addition, during this past year, we have had more than 200 inquiries from ASSE members addressing the use of scaffolding products imported into the U.S. from other countries. Below is a letter of interpretation issued by OSHA in 2001 addressing some aspects of this issue:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=24312

Below are some specific examples of recognition and use of ANSI/ASSE A10.8 at the federal, state, and international levels. This does not begin to get into the number of times A10.8 is referenced in contracts and work agreements.

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=19987

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=PREAMBLES&p_id=1059

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=17819

http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_oshafpdf/FED20030502.pdf

<http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1996/08/30/96-21289/safety-standards-for-scaffolds-used-in-the-construction-industry>

OSHA Use of A10.8 via the General Duty Clause

	Inspection	Citation	Issuance	Report ID	Category	SIC	Establishment Name
1	312925316	01001	02/18/2011	0626700	Falling	9999	Gulf Greyhound Park
2	309850402	01001	08/23/2007	0257210	Falling	1721	Spensieri Painting Llc
3	309620334	01003A	03/07/2007	0418100	Struck By	2451	Horton Homes, Inc.
4	309620334	01003B	03/07/2007	0418100	Falling	2451	Horton Homes, Inc.
5	309085520	01001	04/18/2006	0625700	Falling	1742	F&C Dynamic Construction Inc
6	307594440	01001	06/14/2004	0625700	Falling	1741	Louisiana Stucco & Masonry Llc
7	305156994	02001	01/14/2003	0521400	Falling	7349	One Source Building Services, Inc.

NIOSH FACE Report

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/stateface/wi/94wi340.html>

Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission

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