

Safety during the use of scaffolding



The information in this document will help you to carry out your work safely and securely, and in a way that ensures you meet the requirements of the working environment regulations. The document is intended to be an aid. In addition to these minimum requirements, operators undertake to conduct themselves in accordance with the applicable regulations. Translated 17.09.2018.

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Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to improve safety during the use of scaffolding. Safe scaffolding leads to better quality and job satisfaction.

The causes of most accidents are

- lack of railings
- poor flooring and ends liable to tipping
- removal of wall fixings
- insecure foundations
- use of non-original parts
- poor clearing
- poorly secured ladders



Important telephone numbers

Fire	110
Police	112
Emergency medical assistance	113

Users of scaffolding

Users of scaffolding must play their part in ensuring that the scaffolding is secured. They should participate in prevention and environmental work. Users must stop work if continuing to do so would pose a risk to life or health.

Once the scaffolding has been properly erected, access to the scaffolding must be safe, convenient and appropriate. You should be able to take tools and materials with you on the scaffolding without any problems. A stairwell or external staircase is the best means of access. A ladder can be used for access during short-term work, provided it is secured.



The scaffolding must have the strength and stability required for all users of the scaffolding.

Checklist for ensuring the scaffolding is safe

- Alterations must only be carried out by persons who have received training.
- The company checks the scaffolding before start-up, after bad weather conditions and when it has been out of use for one week or longer.
- The scaffolding must have clearly visible signage, indicating approval.
- Railings must be installed if it is removed.
- Load-bearing parts must never be removed.
- Fittings, railings, floors, diagonals, etc. can only be removed one at a time.



The foundation is very important for the scaffolding

Check regularly whether there has been any setting in the ground, and compensate this with adjustable legs and cushions/pressure distribution.

Especially for screens, railings* and floors

- Have the necessary screens been mounted?
- Has the necessary tarpaulin or cover been fitted?
- Have end railings been installed?
- Openings larger than 30 cm must have railings.
- No railings must be lower than 0.95 m
- During roofing works, railings must be at least 1 m above the roof's extension.
- Is the scaffolding floor secured so that it does not tip?
- Is the scaffolding floor compact, so that things do not fall down on each other?

**Railings are defined as hand rails, knee rails and foot rails*

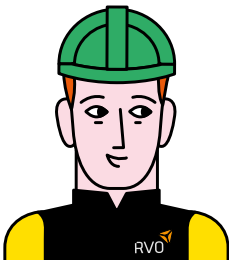
The intention with the use of screens is to ensure that tools or materials do not fall down and injure other persons. Screens are important for protecting the public around entrances. Screens have such a solid structure that items cannot fall through.

When a tarpauling/cover is used, the scaffolding must be secured particularly well. This is done by the person erecting the scaffolding.

NB! Remember the risk of fire when using tarpaulins and covers/nets – use fire-retardant materials.

Load class

- ① Inspection and light maintenance work (75kg/m²)
- ② Painting work including material painting work on the scaffolding (150kg/m²)
- ③ Cleaning and assembly work including material work on the scaffolding (200kg/m²)
- ④+⑤ Is a typical wall scaffolding (300–450kg/m²)
- ⑥ With large loads (600kg/m²)



NB! Do not exceed the maximum loads for the scaffolding

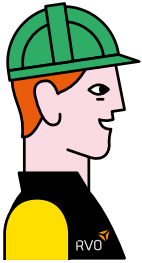
Responsibilities of the employer

The employer must ensure that employees using scaffolding as a work platform for carrying out work at heights have been given training in the use of the scaffolding. This must be implemented before the work is started.

When ordering

Things to think about when planning and ordering scaffolding

- Has a risk assessment been carried out beforehand?
- Are the assembly instructions followed and accessible?
- Have the correct scaffolding and load class been chosen?
- Whether any digging is necessary near the scaffolding.
- Whether any back-filling is carried out where the scaffolding is going to stand.
- Whether there is a risk of impact.
- Proximity to live electric wires.
- Whether there are several employers who will be using the scaffolding.
- Positioning of goods or passenger lifts.
- Positioning of containers and rubbish chutes.
- Whether it is necessary to rent road space.
- Whether there are any openings larger than 30 centimetres between the scaffolding and the building.
- Receipt and storage of materials.
- The scaffolding constructor's protection of road users during erection, maintenance and disassembly.
- Warning and signage of work sites for road users.
- Clearance in pedestrian tunnels and public access to entrances.
- Padding of scaffolding for the visually impaired and wheelchair users.
- Whether there is a clear view of traffic lights and signs.
- Whether a splash guard/screen or cover is necessary to protect the public from facade washing, sandblasting, cleaning, painting, etc.
- Access to the building or property by intruders from the scaffolding.



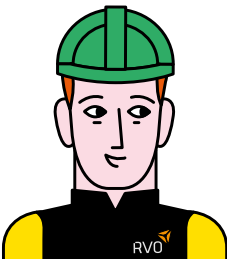
All scaffolding must
be good to work on!



Ground rules

Secure scaffolding can be distinguished by their

- 1 Being erected by approved scaffolders with the required theoretical and practical training.
- 2 Being constructed with approved material without deformities and too much wear.
- 3 Bearing clear signage indicating the name of the owner, scaffolder, employer (user), hire company, if applicable, and permitted loads.
- 4 Having a strong foundation and responsible anchorage.
- 5 Being at a distance of no more than 30 cm maximum from the wall.
- 6 Having railings in the form of a hand rail, knee rail, foot rail and end railing.
- 7 Having safe and appropriate access.
- 8 Being kept cleared at all times.
- 9 Being checked at regular intervals to suit the conditions.
The employer must ensure that reports are written regarding the checking of all scaffolding.



True professionals refuse to use scaffolding that does not meet these requirements!

Organisation

The system of regional safety representatives in the building and construction industry was introduced in 1981 and is a three-party collaboration between the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, the employer organisations Federation of Norwegian Construction Industries and Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors, and the employee organisations Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions and the Norwegian Union of General Workers. The system is financed through an annual fee paid by companies in the building and construction industry. The regional safety delegates for the construction industry are appointed by the Norwegian Union of General Workers, and the regional safety representatives for the building industry are appointed by the Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions.

Secretariat

The secretariat handles administration, including collecting the fees. They can answer questions on how to calculate the fee and who must pay.



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