Temporary Works forum (NZ)

Promoting best practice in the construction industry.

SCAFFOLDING

Scaffolds are temporary structures made conventionally out of steel or aluminium tubes, tubular lattice beams, couplers, fittings, planks and/or modular systems that provide access or support, to enable construction, maintenance or demolition.

What to look out for:

- **Where ties are not installed properly or have been removed (ties at a minimum of every second bay and every second lift).**
- **In most cases the need for engineering design of ties should be considered.**
- **All standards should have base plates or basejacks with soleboards (except on RC slabs). Site conditions should also be considered (soleboards doubled up on soft soil etc)**
- **Damage or deterioration of planks, or planks not adequately secured against uplift or displacement. Note that all items should be recorded on a condition register.**
- **Where trusses are not laced and braced at a minimum of 2m centres.**
- **Where bracing is not provided at every 5th bay and end bays in temporary roofs or trusses acting as bridges.**
- **Where scaffolds have not been inspected in the last week.**
- **Where scaffold tags do not display duty rating.**
- **Where loading bays do not display max loading.**
- **Where platforms are used for duties beyond its duty rating.**
- **Where sheeted scaffolds have not been designed by a CPEng.**
- **Where connections >300mm of node points for tube and clip or as determined by manufacturer.**
- **Where worksafe have not been notified as required.**

What is the risk?

Scaffolding can become unstable where it is not designed, constructed, used, maintained or adapted in accordance with good practice. An unstable scaffold can collapse onto the worksite and cause injury to those using it, or others.

Why could that happen?

Scaffolds often require significant numbers of ties and braces to either transfer loads into adjacent structure, or into the ground. Where all potential loads for the scaffold have not been adequately considered or assessed by a Chartered engineer, the scaffold can become unstable in the event of high winds, earthquakes or even under general loading conditions otherwise not adequately considered.

How do I know it is safe?

Scaffolds should be tagged as safe and inspected by a competent scaffolder. Scaffolders should identify any scaffolds that need to be supported by a design (by a chartered engineer) and provide this to the site.

Where can I find good guidance?

- Scaffolding in New Zealand: Good Practice Guideline (WorkSafe NZ)

  The Good Practice Guidelines represent the minimum required standard for scaffolding in NZ
- Resources from SARNZ sarnz.co.nz/resources

Who do I speak to if I have any concerns?

Please discuss your concerns with the Site Manager, or other representative

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