



# General Stationary Scaffold Inspection Guidelines - US

Inspecting scaffold equipment is important for the safety of those erecting, dismantling, using and in the vicinity of the scaffold. As evidence of this importance, pursuant to the federal OSHA requirements, a “competent person” must inspect the scaffold prior to every shift that the scaffold is being worked on or used and after any occurrence that could affect the scaffold’s integrity. When inspecting a scaffold, the following list of questions can be used as a practical guide. However, please keep in mind that this list is general in nature and not intended to be an exhaustive list for all situations. Additional or different inspection questions or requirements may be necessary or appropriate depending on the specific project, product type(s), or governing law. Compliance with all OSHA and other regulatory provisions, including training requirements for all scaffold users, is, of course, always required.

- **Inspection was completed by a competent person?**
- **The scaffold meets the design requirements and/or engineered plan/drawings?**
- **Sills and base plates are of adequate size and placed appropriately on a suitable surface?**
- **Screw jacks are appropriately adjusted and the scaffold is level and plumb?**
- **Adequate bracing components are in place to stabilize scaffold?**
- **Ties and/or guy systems including anchorages or outriggers are acceptable for scaffold or non-enclosed scaffold height to base ratio is within legislated requirements?**
- **Planks and decking meet acceptable grade and performance level?**
- **Gaps or openings in platform are limited to an acceptable size or protected by guardrails and/or other protection method?**
- **Guard rails and/or toeboards are used to protect open sides where deemed necessary?**
- **Ladders and stairs are appropriately fastened, maintained and provide proper access/egress?**
- **Scaffold components are appropriately installed, secure and function as intended?**
- **The scaffold meets the minimum safe approach distance from powerlines?**
- **The duty/load rating for the scaffold platform is adequate?**

If as part of an inspection, any of these questions are answered with a no, a supervisor or other responsible party needs to be notified and further analysis of the situation and possible corrective action is required.

