

Scaffolding Policy

The Scaffolding Policy is to protect employees from hazards associated with the use of scaffolding equipment, and to ensure compliance with New Hampshire Department of Labor Standard 1403.52 Scaffolds.

The requirements of this policy must also meet the requirements of RSA 277:3 Requirements and RSA 277:4 Weight Limits.

A. Employers Responsibilities

The employer shall provide training to all employees designated to erect scaffolding equipment. He/She must also provide the workforce with scaffolding in proper working order, free of defects or other recognized hazards, and provide employees with personal fall arrest systems for use on all scaffolding equipment.

B. Employee Responsibilities

The employee will be permitted to erect scaffolding equipment once properly trained, and use scaffolding equipment according to the guidelines in section C of this policy. It is the responsibility of the employee to wear personal fall arrest equipment and any other personal protective equipment designated by the Town of Amherst for use on scaffolding. The employee must also inspect all scaffolding equipment prior to use to ensure integrity.

C. Procedural Overview

Scaffolds shall be erected on sound, rigid footing capable of carrying the maximum intended load without settling or displacement. Only designated materials shall be used for footing. The scaffold height should not exceed four times the base width.

All planking shall be scaffold grade or equivalent, as recognized by approved grading rules for the species of wood used. The maximum permissible spans for 2 feet by 10 feet or wider planks are as follows:

Planking Material Thickness					
	Full thickness Undressed Lumber			Nominal Thickness Lumber	
Working Load (psf)	25	50	75	25	50
Permissible Span (ft.)	10	8	6	8	6

The maximum permissible span for 1-1/4 x 9 inch or wider plank of full thickness is 4 feet, with medium loading of 50 psf Scaffold planking shall be overlapped a minimum of

12 inches or secured from movement, and shall extend over their end supports no less than 6 inches nor more than 12 inches. Defective parts of all scaffolding and accessories shall immediately be replaced or repaired, and an access ladder or equivalent safe access shall be provided. Employees are prohibited from climbing the outer structure of a scaffold.

Mobile platforms shall be tightly planked for the full width of the scaffold except for necessary entrance opening. Platforms shall be secured in place, and brakes or wheel chocks shall be set when a mobile platform is in use. Employees shall not ride a mobile platform when it is being moved.

Tubular welded frame scaffolds shall be properly braced by cross bracing or diagonal braces, or both, for securing vertical members together laterally. Cross braces shall be of such length that automatically squares and aligns vertical members so that the erected scaffold is always plumb, square, and rigid. All brace connections must be inspected for security.

Fall protection shall be selected and use in accordance with applicable Fall Protection Policy. A safety life belt attached to a lifeline shall protect all employees working on scaffolds. Lifelines shall be attached to substantial members of the structure, not to the scaffold, or to securely rigged lines, which shall safely suspend the employee in case of a fall. In order to keep the lifeline continuously attached, with a minimum of slack to a fixed structure, the attachment point of the lifeline shall be changed as the work progresses.

From the Town of Amherst's Policy and Procedure Manual, 2009.