

06/08 Safety of suspended scaffolds

Following a number of serious incidents around Australia, WorkSafe reminds all persons involved in supplying, installing or using swing stages of the risks associated with suspended scaffolds, and the control measures necessary to control these risks.

Factors to consider

- The *Occupational Safety and Health Act* and *Regulations* place legal obligations on manufacturers, suppliers, installers and employers of persons involved with suspended scaffolds.
- These obligations cover the design, erection, alteration, dismantling, inspection and use of scaffolding.

Recommendations

1. Suspended scaffolds must comply with the design requirements of *Australian Standard 1576 Part 4 – Suspended scaffolding*.
2. Suspended scaffolding should only be erected or altered in accordance with its design specifications.
3. The erection, alteration or dismantling of a suspended scaffold should take place under the control of an Advanced Scaffolder or Advanced Rigger high risk work licence holder.
4. Suspended scaffolds should not be used before a licenced person inspects and tags the scaffold with a durable tag in a prominent position.
5. Further inspections should take place each time the suspended scaffold is moved or altered, and at least every 30 days.
6. Persons using suspended scaffolds should report any defects to the responsible person.

Further information

- *AS/NZS 1576.4 - 1991 Suspended scaffolding*
- *AS/NZS 4576 - 1995 Guidelines for scaffolding*

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email safety@docep.wa.gov.au

Date: June 2008

