

# Scaffolds and Other Elevated Work Platforms

Scaffolding must be used in accordance with the CSA Standard Z797, “Code of Practice for Access Scaffold,” which includes safe-use practices and provisions for falling object protection. A scaffold must be designed to support and be capable of holding at least 4 times the load that is likely to be on it. The scaffold must only be used for the load it was designed for.

The following scaffolds are prohibited:

- Wooden pumpjack scaffold poles
- Wooden carpenter’s brackets
- Ladderjack scaffolds

## Types of Scaffolds

**Pumpjack scaffold systems** must be metal and be installed and used to meet the following conditions:

- Load is less than 122 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (25 lbs/ft<sup>2</sup>)
- No more than 2 people between supporting poles at a time
- Scaffold is no higher than 13.7 m
- Has bracing every 4.6 m, starting at the base of the scaffold, unless otherwise specified in the manufacturer’s specifications



Figure 1. Scaffold

**Bracket scaffolds** must meet the following conditions for use:

- Brackets must be spaced no more than 3 m apart.
- A loaded bracket scaffold must be securely attached to a structural wall that is able to withstand the force applied in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications by:
  - Bolting the bracket scaffold to the wall.
  - Welding the bracket scaffold to steel structures attached to the wall.
- Must be capable of supporting at least 4 times the load that is likely to be on it.

**Roofing brackets** must meet the following conditions:

- Must be securely fastened to the roof
- Must have a span of no greater than 3 m
- Must be capable of supporting at least 4 times the load that is likely to be on them

## Inspections

A scaffold used at a workplace must be inspected daily by a competent person. The results of these inspections must be communicated to the users through a visual, written or verbal method that is understood by everyone, and is described in the written procedure.

*Visual method could involve tagging. e.g., where Green means good; Yellow means potential or unusual hazard, and Red means do not use.*

## Material for Scaffold Work-Platforms

Some materials used for scaffold work-platforms may include:

- Sawn lumber scaffold planks
- Laminated lumber scaffold planks
- Manufactured scaffold planks or decks made partly or entirely of metal or reinforced plastic

Where other material is used as scaffold plank, it must comply with the CSA Z797 “Code of Practice for Access Scaffold.”

Where sawn lumber is used for scaffold planks it must meet **ONE** of the following criteria:

- Planks are N<sup>o</sup>. 1 grade or Select Structural Spruce-Pine-Fir grade and 51 mm thick and 254 mm wide.
- Planks are N<sup>o</sup>. 2 grade or better and sized no smaller than 38 mm thick and 235 mm wide rough sawn lumber, and are doubled up and fastened one on top of the other.

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## Elevating Work-Platforms

Any portable, self-propelled elevated work-platform must be designed, maintained and used according to the applicable CSA standards. Any inspections, tests, repairs, modifications and maintenance activities must be **documented** with the name and signature of the person performing those activities.

- CSA B354.1 “Portable Elevating Work Platforms”
- CSA B354.2 “Self-Propelled Elevating Work Platforms”
- CSA B354.4 Self-Propelled, Boom-Supported Elevating Work Platforms”
- CSA C225 “Vehicle Mounted Aerial Device”

When using an elevated work platform (regardless if guardrails are installed or not), fall-arrest equipment must be worn and anchored to a suitable anchorage.

*A person must not be lifted in equipment that is not designed for that purpose, including loader buckets and backhoes.*

## Lift Truck Work-Platform

While a person is on a lift truck work-platform, the lift truck must be operated under the following conditions:

- Operated by a competent person who must be continuously at the controls
- Must not be moved laterally over large distances
- It or the platform must only be moved slowly to make minor adjustments

Any lift truck used to lift a work-platform must be inspected by an engineer.

Any lift-truck work-platform must be designed, maintained, inspected, and operated in accordance with the **ANSI/ITSDF B56.1** ([www.itsdf.org](http://www.itsdf.org)) “Safety Standard for Low Lift and High Lift Trucks.”

### DISCLAIMER:

*This fact sheet is a general overview for information purposes only. Farmers must reference legislation to ensure compliance.*