Scaffold Inspection Checklist

Supported scaffolds. A competent person inspects before each work shift and after anything that could affect the scaffold (29 CFR 1926.451(f)(3)).

JOB SITE

SCAFFOLD (LOCATION OR TAG NUMBER)

SCAFFOLD TYPE

COMPETENT PERSON

DATE AND TIME

BEFORE SHIFT / AFTER EVENT

Inspection and people

Check	29 CFR	Yes	No	N/A
A competent person inspected the scaffold for visible defects before this shift (and again after anything that could affect its structure).	1926.451(f)(3)			
It was erected, moved or altered under the supervision of a competent person, by experienced and trained workers that person selected.	1926.451(f)(7)			
Everyone working on it has been trained by a qualified person on the hazards of this type of scaffold.	1926.454(a)			

Footing, structure and load

Check	29 CFR	Yes	No	N/A
Legs, posts, frames and uprights bear on base plates and mud sills or another adequate firm foundation.	1926.451(c)(2)			
Footings are level, sound and rigid, and are not settling or shifting under the load.	1926.451(c)(2)(i)			
No unstable objects (loose bricks, blocks, boxes) are supporting the scaffold or its platforms.	1926.451(c)(2)(ii)			
The scaffold is plumb and braced so it cannot sway or shift.	1926.451(c)(3)			
If it is more than 4 times as tall as its base is wide, it is guyed, tied or braced: per the manufacturer, or at the 4:1 height and then every 20 feet (3 feet wide or less) or 26 feet (wider).	1926.451(c)(1)			
Parts from different manufacturers are mixed only where they fit together without force.	1926.451(b)(10)			
No part is damaged or weakened; anything that is has been repaired, replaced, braced or removed from service.	1926.451(f)(4)			
It is not loaded beyond its maximum intended load or rated capacity, whichever is less.	1926.451(f)(1)			

Platforms and planks

Check	29 CFR	Yes	No	N/A
Each working level is fully planked or decked, with no gap over 1 inch between planks or between the platform and the uprights.	1926.451(b)(1)(i)			
Platforms and walkways are at least 18 inches wide (12 inches for ladder jack, top plate bracket, roof bracket and pump jack scaffolds).	1926.451(b)(2)			
Each plank end is cleated or restrained, or extends at least 6 inches past the centerline of its support.	1926.451(b)(4)			
Planks 10 feet long or less overhang their support by no more than 12 inches, unless designed to carry the load or guarded.	1926.451(b)(5)(i)			
The front edge of each platform is no more than 14 inches from the face of the work, or guardrails or personal fall arrest are in use.	1926.451(b)(3)			
Wood platforms are not covered with paint or another opaque finish (edges may be marked).	1926.451(b)(9)			
Platforms are clear of debris.	1926.451(f)(13)			
Platforms are free of snow, ice or other slippery material (work only to remove it).	1926.451(f)(8)			

Check	29 CFR	Yes	No	N/A
Nobody is standing on boxes, barrels or ladders on the platform to reach higher.	1926.451(f)(14)			

Access

Check	29 CFR	Yes	No	N/A
Where a platform is more than 2 feet above or below the access point, there is a ladder, stair tower, ramp or other proper access.	1926.451(e)(1)			
Nobody is climbing the crossbraces.	1926.451(e)(1)			
Hook-on and attachable ladders have their bottom rung no more than 24 inches above the scaffold supporting level.	1926.451(e)(2)(ii)			

Fall protection and falling objects

Check	29 CFR	Yes	No	N/A
Everyone more than 10 feet above a lower level is protected by guardrails or a personal fall arrest system.	1926.451(g)(1)			
Guardrails are on all open sides and ends of platforms.	1926.451(g)(4)(i)			
Top rails are 38 to 45 inches above the platform (supported scaffolds made or placed in service after January 1, 2000).	1926.451(g)(4)(ii)			
Midrails sit about halfway between the top rail and the platform.	1926.451(g)(4)(iv)			
People below are protected from falling tools and debris: the area is barricaded, or there are toeboards, screens, nets or a canopy.	1926.451(h)(1)			
Toeboards, where used, are at least 3½ inches high and fastened at the outer edge of the platform.	1926.451(h)(4)(ii)			
Everyone on the scaffold is wearing a hard hat.	1926.451(h)(1)			

Around the scaffold

Check	29 CFR	Yes	No	N/A
The scaffold and anything conductive handled on it stay clear of power lines: at least 3 feet from insulated lines under 300 volts, and 10 feet from insulated lines up to 50 kV and from any uninsulated line under 50 kV (more above 50 kV).	1926.451(f)(6)			
It is not moved sideways with people on it (unless engineered for it, or a mobile scaffold used under its own rules).	1926.451(f)(5)			
No work in storms or high winds unless a competent person has decided it is safe and workers have fall arrest or wind screens.	1926.451(f)(12)			
Loads hoisted onto or near the scaffold that could hit it are controlled with tag lines.	1926.451(f)(9)			

CHECKS MARKED NO: WHAT NEEDS FIXING, WHO IS FIXING IT, BY WHEN. KEEP PEOPLE OFF UNTIL FIXED (29 CFR 1926.451(F)(4) FOR DAMAGED PARTS).

FIT FOR USE (YES / NO) _____

COMPETENT PERSON SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Checks summarize 29 CFR 1926.451 and 1926.454; the standard is the authority. Suspended scaffolds and other types have more rules (1926.451(d), 1926.452).