1. The scaffold must be erected on firm ground, with mudsills (planks) and base supports used to ensure stability. It must always be level (use a water level). If the ground is loose and uneven, adjustable screw jacks must be used to keep the scaffolding perfectly level (see Figure 1).

2. Diagonal cross braces must be installed as the scaffold is built up in height. Never use them to access the scaffold. All scaffolding frames must be connected to each other using vertical safety latches, commonly known as banana clips.

3. If tie-backs and stabilizers are not used, rule 3.1 must be followed: the total work platform height must not exceed 3 times the smallest dimension of the base (measurement to include the screw jack if present).

4. Using a ladder, stepladder or any other similar accessory on a platform is prohibited. Therefore lighting equipment on stands must not be more than 1.8 m high, so that they can be adjusted at eye level. Also, the platform must be at least 470 mm wide, and fit perfectly on the scaffold.

5. The scaffold and all its components must be able to support 4 times the maximum load to which it is likely to be subjected. It must be designed, built, trussed and maintained so as to withstand gusts of wind and support the loads and limitations to which it is subject. Remember that having canvas sheets, tarpaulins etc. fixed to the scaffold significantly affects how it reacts in gusts of wind.

6. The scaffold must be installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Assembly and dismantling instructions — signed and certified by an engineer — must be available when, for instance:

- the height of a metal scaffold exceeds 18 m;
- the height of a wood scaffold exceeds 9 m;
- an overhanging or a suspended scaffold extends more than 2.4 m from the building facade;
- the scaffold is mounted on a vehicle or on movable equipment.

7. No worker may be on a rolling scaffold while it is being moved. Material must be well attached to a rigid scaffold member. When a rolling scaffold is in use, its locking system (brakes) must be engaged.

- On rolling scaffolds, the wheels or castors must be securely attached by the appropriate device (screw, bolt, nut, etc.). The base of a rolling scaffold must have horizontal cross bracing to ensure the scaffold maintains its shape (see Figure 2).
- All types of scaffolds must have horizontal cross bracing every third frame tier from the ground up.

8. Someone must ensure that the work surface is stable and level, and that nothing could cause it to tip or become unstable. Before using the equipment, any anticipated movement must be studied in order to locate aerial obstructions, vehicle and pedestrian traffic, holes in the asphalt, slopes, etc.

9. Hoisting apparatus must be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, particularly on sloping surfaces. On sloping surfaces, the equipment must never be left unattended, unless wheel chocks have been used to immobilize it. If the hoisting apparatus has a braking mechanism, it must be applied when personnel are being lifted.

10. Members of the production crew on the platform must wear individual fall protection equipment, namely a safety harness connected by a lanyard with an energy absorber to an anchor on the platform.

11. In planning the filming or recording, the department head that will be using the hoisting apparatus must choose it according to the weight to be lifted.

12. The producer or his agent must suspend the work when a component or part of a scaffold could come to within the following minimum distances from a power line:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line voltage (volts)</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 125 000</td>
<td>3 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de 125 000 à 250 000</td>
<td>5 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de 250 000 à 550 000</td>
<td>8 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 550 000</td>
<td>12 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. The producer or his agent must foresee a fall protection system when the scaffold height exceeds 3 m. The system may be:

- a guardrail;
- individual fall protection equipment meeting the following standards:
  - Full Body Harness (CAN/CSA Standard Z259.10-M90);
  - Shock Absorbers for Personal Fall-Arrest Systems (CAN/CSA Standard Z259.11M92);
  - Fall-Arresting Devices, Personnel Lowering Devices and Life Lines (CSA Standard Z259.2-M1979);
  - The anchor of a fall-protection system shall be capable of withstanding a force of 18 KN;

14. During the assembly and dismantling of a scaffold more than 3 m high, the use of a fall protection system is necessary. If a harness is used, this must be connected by a lanyard (or a retracting belt) with a shock absorber to an anchor point devised specifically for this. The anchor point may be a rope grab that moves along the length of a vertical lifeline (see Figure 3), a horizontal lifeline or a safety rail (see Figure 4). All components must comply with current standards, prevent a free fall of more than 1.2 m and withstand a load of 18 KN.

15. If a chain hoist is used accessories must be fitted with hoist brakes, which must be designed and installed in such a way as to stop a load of at least one-and-a-half times the rated load. Ensure that the hoist does not destabilize the platform.

References


Quebec. Safety Code for the Construction Industry. RRQ, c S-2.1, r 6

Quebec. Règlement sur la santé et la sécurité du travail

Note – The information contained in this guideline is not exhaustive and does not replace current standards, laws and regulations.