



Mobile metal scaffolds (scaffolds) have been increasingly used for work-at-height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (RMAA) works. However, scaffolds with substandard features or the improper use of scaffolds, are the major causes of accidents resulting in falls from height as well as the collapse or overturning of scaffolds. Employers, contractors and workers undertaking RMAA works are alerted of the following:

DOs

- ✓ Every part of a scaffold is of sound construction, adequate strength and free from obvious defect.
- ✓ The height to the least base dimension ratios should not be greater than 3.5 and 3 for scaffolds used within and outside buildings respectively. Stabilisers or outriggers should be installed if necessary to ensure the stability.
- ✓ Swivel-type castors with brakes are fitted at the bottom of the scaffolds.
- ✓ Safe access, such as a suitable ladder, is provided and maintained.
- ✓ The working platform on a scaffold is closely planked or boarded with suitable guard-rails and toe-boards provided on every side.
- ✓ Erection, alteration or dismantling of a scaffold should only be conducted by trained workmen with adequate experience and under the immediate supervision of a competent person.
- ✓ Scaffolds are regularly inspected and certified safe by a competent person.
- ✓ Warning notices should be conspicuously displayed on defective scaffolds to alert workers to the prohibition of their use.
- ✓ In addition to avoiding live electrical works at height conducted on the scaffold, suitable protective equipment such as insulating mats should be provided and properly maintained.



Disclaimer

Whilst reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, the CIC nevertheless would encourage readers to seek appropriate independent advice from their professional advisers where possible and readers should not treat or rely on this publication as a substitute for such professional advice for taking any relevant actions.



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Safe Use of Mobile Metal Scaffolds for Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works

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DON'Ts

- ✗ Don't use a scaffold unless it rests on firm, level ground free from potholes.
- ✗ Don't over-reach from the working platform of a scaffold.
- ✗ Don't use ladders or makeshift devices on top of a scaffold to increase its height.
- ✗ Don't use a scaffold under strong wind or other adverse weather conditions.
- ✗ Don't move a scaffold while workers or heavy equipment / materials are on it.
- ✗ Don't use a defective scaffold.

Relevant reference:

Labour Department

- Code of Practice for Metal Scaffolding Safety



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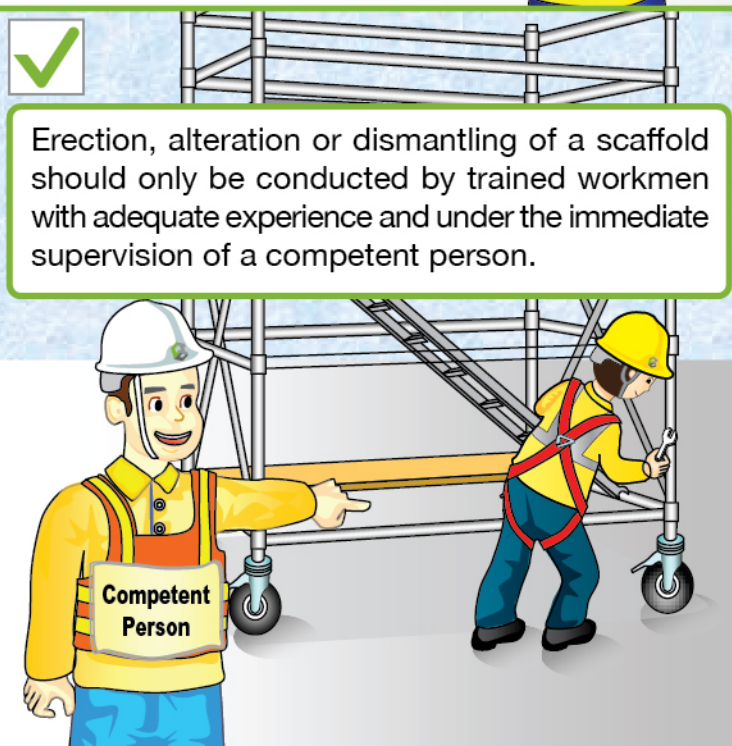


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