

How Much Is This Bracket Good For?

You're pulling equipment for a job that must ship today and you notice the sidewall brackets are not yours. They probably came back from the last job by mistake but it's too late to do anything about it – you need them on this job. They look just like yours but how much load are they good for?

- First, try the obvious – is there a load rating on any of the brackets? The rating may be stamped somewhere on the bracket or it may be on a label that is affixed to the bracket.
- If there is not a load rating on the bracket, look for a manufacturer's or distributor's label affixed to the bracket. If you can get the company name, you can contact them and they may be able to give you a load rating based on your description of the bracket. If available, a picture could help in identifying the bracket.
- OSHA Standard 1926.452 (c) (5) (iii) states "brackets used to support cantilevered loads shall... be used only to support personnel, unless the scaffold has been designed for other loads by a qualified engineer..." Scaffold brackets designed to support personnel only are considered light duty.
- Do not modify brackets. If the bracket has been modified or is damaged, the load rating may be affected, and the bracket should not be used.

Of course, before you use any brackets, you should make sure they will work with your frames. Do not force a bracket onto a frame. If you have any question about whether or not the bracket fits correctly, or about the load capacity of the bracket, do not use it!

This Technical Bulletin was prepared by members of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association SSFI Committee.

SSFI is a committee comprising manufacturers of shoring, scaffolding, forming, and suspended scaffolding. The committee focuses on engineering and safety aspects of scope products.

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