

Riding of Mobile Scaffolds

The SSFI recommends that workers do not ride or surf/self-propel rolling scaffolds/hallway scaffolds. Available data indicates that riding a rolling scaffold significantly increases the risk of high exposure to sudden falls, catastrophic failure, and destabilization of the scaffold, resulting in very serious injury to workers. These injuries can and do include paralysis, loss of bodily functions, inability to function normally and death.

OSHA requires that casters be locked while a scaffold is in use and ANSI A10.8, paragraph 11.33, states “Persons shall be prohibited from riding on mobile scaffolds while they are being moved.”

Scaffold manufacturers specifically prohibit riding scaffolds while they are being moved to protect workers from injury. When a rolling scaffold encounters an obstruction, such as debris or an uneven rolling surface, the scaffold can suddenly stop moving forward, start moving in an unanticipated direction, tip or turnover. All of these motion changes can result in the rider of the scaffold being injured and/or thrown from the scaffold platform. Not only does ‘surfing’ impose loads on the scaffold system that it is not designed to withstand, it puts any rider in danger of being injured or killed. The potential of the moving scaffold to fail under loads imposed by surfing or to encounter an obstruction resulting in a rider being thrown from the scaffold are unacceptable risks.

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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