



SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDING SECTION

SSFI TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Suspended Platform Inspection

Suppliers and users of one and two point suspended scaffold platforms must inspect them to ensure they are safe to install and use. Anyone inspecting platforms must be trained properly. This bulletin provides some guidelines for general inspection. Be sure to check with your manufacturer for specific inspection information. Some jurisdictions may require formal inspection procedures. Be sure to know and follow the requirements in your jurisdiction.

The best time to inspect a platform is while they are on the ground or in the warehouse. They can easily be picked up, rolled over, and examined from all angles for a close inspection.

First, look at the overall condition of the platform. Make sure the platform surface, side rails, guardrail panels and toeboards are straight and true. Inspect for any extra holes and damage from fork lifts, handling, overloading or other abuse. A few small dings or dents in the platform, rails or toeboards may be acceptable.

Inspect the platform surface more closely for splits or cuts. Pay particular attention to the ends. Also inspect the guardrails and toeboards for large dents, bends, kinks, holes, splits or cuts. Inspect pinning holes used for joining platform sections together and guardrail pinning holes. Make sure they are not enlarged or torn. Remove platforms from service if any of these conditions are found.

Platforms should not be modified in any manner. Look for extra holes that may have been drilled into the platform or evidence that the platform was made to force fit a non-compatible platform. Remove from service if found.

Lastly, inspect all welds. Look for missing or cracked welds. Look at welds between the platform surface and platform structure, making sure that there are no loose platform surface members. Inspect the welds on the side panels. Welds that look “different” may indicate that unauthorized repairs or modifications have been made.

The manufacturer is the final authority on inspecting platforms and any repairs or modifications that may be required.

This Technical Bulletin was prepared by members of the SSFI Suspended Scaffolding Section.

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

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