Scaffold Ladder Installation and Use Guidelines

1. Provide Safe Access when scaffold platforms are more than 2 feet (0.6 m) above or below a point of access.
2. Position ladders so as not to tip the scaffold.
3. Position ladders so that the bottom rung is not more than 2 feet (0.6 m) above the scaffold supporting level.
4. Provide rest platforms at intervals not to exceed 35 feet (10.7 m).
5. Ladders shall be specifically designed for use with the type of scaffold used.
6. Inspect all components for damage or wear. Inspect the clamp rivet for bending. Inspect the clamp to ensure it is free of defects that may cause false torque.
7. Follow all manufacturers’ instructions for proper installation of ladder systems.
8. Cages are not recommended for use on scaffold ladder systems as they could lead to overturning the scaffold, unless the scaffold is designed for cages by a qualified person.
9. User shall verify the adequacy of access including location and number of ladders per platform.
10. Provide sufficient toe-to-heel clearance between rungs and any obstruction behind the ladder.
11. When possible, provide sufficient clearance between the ladder rungs and the nearest permanent object on the climbing side.
12. When possible, provide sufficient clearance from the centerline to the sides of the ladder on the climbing side of the ladder.
13. When unavoidable obstructions are encountered on the climbing side of the ladder, clearance may be reduced to provide sufficient clearance when a deflection device is provided.
14. Extend the ladder 36 inches above the work platform and/or provide handholds, such as guardrails or posts for worker access.
15. On bracket style ladder assemblies a minimum of two brackets shall be installed on the starter ladder assembly.
16. On bracket style ladders, the top bracket shall be installed as close as possible to the top ladder rung.
17. When using clamp type ladder brackets, ensure that the clamp is properly installed and tightened to manufacturer’s specifications.
18. Unless manufacturer’s instructions specify otherwise, ladders designed with pins should be positioned so that the pins are on the top. Likewise, for ladders designed with collars, position ladder units so that collars are on the bottom.