

## When to Use a Parapet Clamp

Parapet clamps can be a useful rigging device for suspended scaffolds when the space on a roof or balcony is too limited to use an outrigger beam; however, due to the moment (twisting) loads imposed on the parapet wall, clamps must only be used on structural parapets, such as reinforced concrete. Check with the manufacturer for loading induced to parapet walls. Check with the building owner's engineer to ensure that the wall will adequately support the loads imposed. If there is no building owner's engineer, a civil engineer should be obtained.

Counterweights are used to resist the overturning loads imposed by the suspended load on outrigger beams. Because counterweights are not used on parapet clamps, the overturning forces must be resisted solely by the parapet wall. Federal OSHA, in paragraph 1926.451(d)(1), requires that the surface on which the rigging device is attached must be capable of supporting at least 4 times the load imposed on them by the scaffold. (Note: Parapet clamps are not allowed in New York City as a primary rigging device.)

All temporary rigging devices used for supporting suspended scaffolds must have a tie back secured to a structurally sound point of anchorage on the building or structure. Tiebacks for parapet clamps must be secured to a sound point of anchorage at or below the level of the parapet clamp. **DO NOT** secure a tieback to standpipes, vents, other piping systems, or electrical conduit. Two tiebacks are required when the point of anchorage is not directly behind the parapet clamp.

Following are some items to follow when using parapet clamps:

- You must follow manufacturer's instructions when installing a parapet clamp.
- Do not over tighten the adjustment screw, as this could damage the parapet clamp.
- Use the proper load rating when rigging a suspended scaffold from a parapet clamp. Make sure the parapet clamp load rating is equal to or greater than the rated hoist capacity or the maximum suspended load on a controlled descent device. Do not use only the suspended scaffold dead weight (hoists, platforms, and stirrups), plus the live load (workers and materials placed on the platform) when calculating your load requirement for the rigging. If a platform becomes hung up on a building ledge when ascending, the hoist will continue to pull until it reaches its stall load; therefore, always make sure the rigging device load rating is matched to the hoist load rating.
- Rigging, derigging, moving, and altering the suspended scaffold must be performed under the supervision of a competent person.
- Preshift and between shift inspections must be performed by a competent person.
- All users of scaffolds must be properly trained and must wear proper personal fall protection equipment.

Suspended scaffolds are a safe method of accessing work areas when proper precautions are taken. All State/Federal OSHA, Provincial and local regulations must be adhered to strictly, and all manufacturer's instructions must be followed at all times.

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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