
Mobile Scaffold Safe Work Practice

A mobile scaffold is an independent scaffold that is free standing and mounted on castors (AS/NZS 1576.1:1995).

General Guidelines for Dismantling & Assembling of a Mobile Scaffold

Under the national certification requirements in force, certification applies where a person or object could fall more than four (4) metres from a scaffold or from an adjacent open floor.

A Basic Scaffolding Certificate must be acquired to dismantle or assemble a prefabricated mobile scaffold greater than 4m. People without a scaffolding certificate can dismantle/assemble a mobile scaffold only while under supervision by a certified scaffolder. A scaffolding certificate is not required to use a mobile scaffold.

General Guidelines for the Safe Use of a Mobile Scaffold

- Post a sign indicating that only authorised staff are allowed to use mobile scaffold.
- Mobile scaffold must be used only on a hard level surface and must not be located closer than 1 m to any slab edge, penetration or other stepdown, unless a fixed fence, rail or suitably high upturn is in place.
- Check for physical defects before every use, including the access ladder. (Refer to manufacturer's manual if available).
- Ensure the scaffold is level.
- Ensure all sections are pinned or appropriately secured.
- Keep scaffold loads to a minimum (including tools and other equipment) and remove when the scaffold is not in use. DO NOT exceed the scaffold's working load (refer to manufacturer's manual).
- Heavy tools, equipment, and supplies must be hoisted up (rather than carried up by hand).
- Leave all castors locked or chocked against any possible movement. Castors shall comply with AS 1576.2 and shall be capable of being locked when work is being performed from the scaffold.
- Where the castors incorporate adjustable legs, the gradient of the surface shall not exceed 5 degrees, unless provision is made to take the load off the castors during use of the scaffold.
- Where practicable, portable barriers and lights should be placed around the scaffold while in use.
- Ensure guardrails and toeboards are in place on all open sides.
- Never move the scaffold while someone is on it.
- Secure materials before moving the mobile scaffold
- Remove the loads including tools after using the scaffold

References

AS/NZS 1576.1:1995 Scaffolding Part 1: General Requirements

AS/NZS 1576.3:1995 Scaffolding Part 3: Prefabricated and tube-and-coupler scaffolding

AS/NZS 4576:1995 Guidelines for Scaffolding