

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & BUSINESS SERVICES  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** June 16, 1998  
**To:** Pat Darby  
**From:** Technical  
**Subject:** Space between scaffold and wall

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In response to your E-mail request here is the situation regarding the allowable space between a suspended scaffold and the structure when there are no scaffold guardrails.

The 14 inch rule in 1926.451(b)(3) applies in all circumstances where there is no guardrail or personal fall arrest system, except as noted in 1926.451(b)(3)(ii) which extends the distance to 18 inches for plastering and lathing. We can find no indication in any document that there are any other exceptions for suspended scaffolds.