

Scaffolding in construction: requirements for competent persons

Division 3, Subdivision L



Who can be a competent person?

A competent person for scaffolding is someone who can identify existing and predictable scaffold hazards in the workplace and has the authority to take prompt measures to eliminate them.

The following Division 3, Subdivision L, rules apply to competent persons.

General requirements

1926.451(b)(10) Scaffold components manufactured by different manufacturers must not be modified to intermix them unless a competent person determines the resulting scaffold is structurally sound.

1926.451(b)(11) Scaffold components made of different metals must not be used together unless a competent person has determined that galvanic corrosion will not reduce the strength of any component to a level below the scaffold capacity requirements in 1926.451(a)(1)-(6).

1926.451 (d)(3)(i) Before a scaffold is used, the direct connections must be evaluated by a competent person who must confirm that the supporting surfaces will hold any additional loads.

1926.451 (d)(10) Ropes must be inspected for defects by a competent person before each work shift and after any event that could affect the rope's integrity.

1926.451 (d)(18) Two-point and multi-point suspension scaffolds must be secured when a competent person determines it is necessary to prevent them from swaying.

1926.451 (e)(9)(i) Employees who erect or dismantle a scaffold must have a safe means of access to the scaffold when access is feasible and does not create a greater hazard. A competent person must make the feasibility determination based on site conditions and the type of scaffold being erected or dismantled.

1926.451 (f)(3) Scaffolds and scaffold components must be inspected for visible defects by a competent person before each work shift and after any event that could affect a scaffold's structural integrity.



1926.451 (f)(7) Scaffolds must be erected, moved, dismantled, or altered only under the supervision and direction of a competent person. The work must be performed only by experienced and trained employees selected by the competent person.

1926.451 (f)(12) Work on or from a scaffold is prohibited during storms or high winds unless a competent person has determined that it is safe to be on the scaffold and employees are protected by personal fall arrest systems or wind screens. Wind screens can be used only when the scaffold is secured against the anticipated wind force.

1926.451 (g)(2) Employers must provide fall protection for employees who erect or dismantle supported scaffolds when fall protection is feasible and does not create a greater hazard. A competent person must make the determination.

1926.451 (g)(4)(xiv) Manila, plastic, or other synthetic rope used for top rails or mid rails must be inspected by a competent person as often as necessary to ensure that it meets the strength requirements in **1926.451(g)**, *Fall protection*.

Training requirements

1926.454(b) Employees who erect, disassemble, move, operate, repair, maintain, or inspect scaffolds must be trained by a competent person to recognize the hazards associated with the task. Training must include the topics in **1926.454(b)(1)-(4)**.



The Technical Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight health and safety programs and rules. The information is intended to supplement the rules and provide best practices to employers.