

<b>Title</b>	<b>Conduct a safety inspection of suspended scaffolding before use and respond to findings of inspection</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This unit standard is intended primarily for non-professional scaffolders to assure the safe use of suspended scaffolding from which they normally work. It does not replace the legal requirement for inspections to be completed by a certificated scaffolder where necessary.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: conduct a visual and a physical inspection of suspended scaffolding before use, and respond to the findings of a suspended scaffold inspection.</p>
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<b>Classification</b>	Lifting Equipment > Rigging and Scaffolding Safety
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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### Guidance Information

- 1 All tasks must be carried out in accordance with:
  - a quality management systems;
  - b designer's requirements and manufacturers' operating instructions; legislation, regulations, bylaws, Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, and Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995;
  - c the most up to date version of the *Good Practice Guidelines – Scaffolding in New Zealand* (GPG), 2016 available from <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/working-at-height/scaffolding-in-new-zealand/>; and all subsequent amendments and replacements.
- 2 This unit standard is intended for use with both boatswain's chairs and swinging stages. It specifically excludes hanging scaffolds.
- 3 Definitions
 

*Before use* refers to before starting work at the beginning of the day and before restarting work after halting for extraordinary external reasons such as high winds, heavy rain, or an incident involving the suspended scaffold. All notifiable scaffolding must be rechecked before it is used again by a certificated scaffolder after adverse weather conditions, or incidents, have affected it.

*Boatswain's chair* is defined in the GPG as a suspended scaffold of which the platform is a chair or similar device suitable for one person. It can be raised or lowered mechanically or by hand haulage.

*Hazards* refer to those occurrences, processes, substances or situations as determined by the organisation that are an actual or potential cause or source of harm associated with, but not limited to: process, activities, environment, equipment, materials, work organisation, site and facilities.

*Limited fall test* is a physical test where a suspended scaffold is lowered or raised to a position slightly above its resting position. The suspended scaffold is then shock loaded by applying a force equal to the full safe working load of the entire suspended scaffold being applied at each end of the suspended scaffold. The suspended scaffold is rechecked in this way prior to use. This is also referred to as a 'load test'.

*Suspended scaffolding* is as defined in the GPG and additionally in the Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995. A suspended scaffold is capable of being raised or lowered. A working platform that cannot be raised or lowered is classified as a hanging scaffold, not a suspended scaffold.

*Swinging stage* is defined in the GPG as a suspended scaffold platform that can be raised or lowered.

*Workplace procedures* refer to procedures and/or practices used and recommended by an organisation involved in the scaffolding industry. Workplace procedures may cover quality assurance, documentation, security, communication, health and safety, and personal behaviour, and may include time and cost constraints.

## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Conduct a visual inspection of suspended scaffolding before use.

#### Performance criteria

1.1 Identify potential hazards.

Range may include but is not limited to – insecure support structures, faulty plant or components.

1.2 Examine the structural integrity of the scaffold.

Range may include but is not limited to – stability, structural integrity of the boatswain's chair or swinging stage anchorage and bracing, fittings and ties, clamps, condition of wire rope, harnesses, hoists, pulleys.

1.3 Check the scaffold register to confirm currency.

Range Pullout tag system, scafftag or other as appropriate.

### Outcome 2

Conduct a physical inspection of suspended scaffolding before use.

Range may include but is not limited to – manual or mechanical testing of component tightness, strength, fit, stability, integrity.

**Performance criteria**

2.1 Identify potential hazards.

Range may include but is not limited to – insecure support structures, faulty plant or components.

2.2 Test the structural integrity of the scaffold.

Range may include but is not limited to – stability, structural integrity of the boatswain's chair or swinging stage, anchorage and bracing, fittings and ties, clamps, condition of wire rope, harnesses, hoists, pulleys.

2.3 Complete a limited fall test.

**Outcome 3**

Respond to the findings of a suspended scaffold inspection.

**Performance criteria**

3.1 Maintain the integrity of the scaffold and the scaffold site.

Range includes – securing loose elements, consultation with a certificated scaffolder holding the appropriate Certificate of Competence, not using unsafe scaffolding and securing suspect scaffolding against access.

3.2 Record and report findings appropriately.

Range may include but is not limited to – completion of GPG or workplace report forms, notifying the workplace supervisor and/or a certificated scaffolder holding the appropriate Certificate of Competence.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2026
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	21 July 2011	31 December 2025
Review	2	24 February 2022	N/A
Revision	3	24 August 2023	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0003
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

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**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Waihanga Ara Rau Construction and Infrastructure Workforce Development Council [qualifications@waihangaararau.nz](mailto:qualifications@waihangaararau.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.