

Recommended Procedures for Visual Inspection of System Scaffold Components & Accessories

This document provides recommended procedures for visual inspection of steel and aluminum system scaffold equipment and is not intended for **all types of scaffold materials**. The following are general guidelines. Contact the manufacturer for specific guidelines.

Visual Inspection

Inspections must be done by a competent person. Inspection teams must be thoroughly trained to recognize the following possible defects or unsafe conditions present in system scaffold components regardless of age or source:

Steel Components - Verticals, Horizontals, Diagonals and Brackets

1. Cracked or broken welds at connection points (nodes)
2. Splits, kinks or cracks in tubes
3. Holes in posts due to cutting or cutting torch activity
4. Evidence of extreme heat
5. Extra or deformed holes
6. Missing or inoperable connection devices and fasteners (wedges, blades, bolts, rivets, etc)
7. Tubes out of round or deviations from normal cross section
8. Dents or dimples in legs
9. Curvature of posts/tubes including buckling or bending or curvature of posts/tubes
10. Excessive corrosion such as pitting and/or flaking
11. Bent or deformed connection points
12. Discoloration due to possible exposure to caustic chemicals
13. Evidence of field modification
14. Squareness or warp of brackets

Screw Jacks / Base Plates

1. Splits or cracks in leg material
2. Damaged threads
3. Excessively loose adjusting nuts
4. Cracked or damaged adjusting nuts
5. Cracked or broken welds
6. Evidence of extreme heat
7. Curvature of components including buckling or bending
8. Extreme corrosion
9. Discoloration due to possible exposure to caustic chemicals
10. Evidence of field modification

Platform – Wood Planks and Laminated Planks

1. Holes, notches and saw kerfs on the surface
2. Splits or cracks on surfaces including dry rot
3. Delamination or separation of veneer layers
4. Plank deformation (Crook, Cup, Twist and Bow)
5. Evidence of face break (tearing or cracking of wood fiber)
6. Excessive buildup of foreign material
7. Twisting, bending or curvature of planks
8. Evidence of mold, insect infestation and extreme heat
9. Evidence of chemical exposure
10. Evidence of field modification

Platform – Steel Planks

1. Cracked or broken welds
2. Missing or damaged support hooks
3. Splits or cracks in deck surfaces
4. Excessive buildup of foreign material on deck surfaces
5. Missing rivets or connectors (where applicable)
7. Holes, dents or dimples in side rails
8. Twisting, bending or curvature of steel
9. Holes in platforms due to cutting or cutting torch activity
10. Evidence of extreme heat
11. Excessive corrosion such as pitting and/or flaking
12. Discoloration due to possible exposure to chemicals
13. Evidence of field modification

Platform – Manufactured Decks

1. Cracked or broken welds
2. Missing or damaged support hooks
3. Splits or cracks in deck surfaces
4. Excessive buildup of foreign material on deck surfaces
5. Missing rivets or connectors (where applicable)
6. Missing Rungs (where applicable)
7. Holes, dents or dimples in side rails
8. Twisting, bending or curvature of steel
9. Holes in platforms due to cutting or cutting torch activity
10. Saw Kerfs in wood surfaces
11. Evidence of extreme heat
12. Excessive corrosion such as pitting and/or flaking
13. Discoloration due to possible exposure to chemicals
14. Evidence of field modification
15. Securing devices operable or other suitable means – Platform – Steel Plank

Various jigs and fixtures can be assembled to inspect and check the components and accessories.

If you have any questions regarding the safety of a system scaffold component, contact the manufacturer or supplier/dealer.

This document was prepared by members of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association Supported Scaffold Council.

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