



SCAFFOLDING SECTION

SSFI RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE

Recommended Procedures for Visual Inspection of System Scaffold Components & Accessories

This document provides recommended procedures for visual inspection of steel and aluminum system scaffolding equipment and is not intended for other materials such as wood products. The following are general guidelines. Contact the manufacturer for specific guidelines.

Visual Inspection

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:

Posts (Legs, Uprights, Standards)

1. Cracked or broken welds at connection points (nodes)
2. Split or cracked tube
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 points
7. Legs out of round or deviations from normal cross section
8. Dents or dimples in legs
9. Straightness of posts
10. Excessive corrosion such as pitting and/or flaking – Corrosion can affect the overall strength of the product due to loss of cross sectional area
11. Bent or deformed connection points
12. Discoloration due to possible exposure to caustic chemicals
13. Evidence of field welding or modification

Horizontals/diagonals

1. Cracked or broken welds
2. Missing or inoperable connection devices (wedges, blades etc.)
3. Splits or cracks in tubes
4. Tubes out of round or deviations from normal cross section
5. Extra or deformed holes
6. Dents or dimples in tubes
7. Straightness of tubes
8. Holes in braces due to cutting or cutting torch activity
9. Evidence of extreme heat
10. Excessive corrosion such as pitting and/or flaking
11. Discoloration due to possible exposure to caustic chemicals
12. Evidence of field welding or modification

This Technical Bulletin was prepared by members of the SSFI Scaffolding Section. SSFI is a trade association comprising manufacturers of scaffolding, shoring, forming, and suspended scaffolding. The institute focuses on engineering and safety aspects of scope products.

This bulletin does not purport to be all-inclusive nor to supplant or replace other additional safety and precautionary measures to cover usual or unusual conditions. If this bulletin conflicts in any way with a state, local, federal or other government statute or regulation, said statute or regulation shall supersede this bulletin and it shall be the responsibility of each user to comply therewith. This bulletin has been developed as an aid to users of scaffolding equipment.

**Recommended Procedures for Visual Inspection of
System Scaffold Components & Accessories**

Sidewall Brackets

1. Cracked or broken welds
2. Missing members
3. Holes in members due to cutting or cutting torch activity
4. Evidence of extreme heat
5. Extra or deformed holes
6. Missing or damaged hooks or connecting devices
7. Bends or kinks in members
8. Squareness or warp of brackets
9. Excessive corrosion such as pitting and/or flaking
10. Missing fasteners (bolts, rivets)
11. Discoloration due to possible exposure to caustic chemicals
12. Evidence of field welding or modification

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 at attached base plates
6. Evidence of extreme heat
7. Straightness of legs
8. Extreme corrosion
9. Discoloration due to possible exposure to caustic chemicals
10. Evidence of field welding or modification

Plank

1. Cracked or broken welds
2. Missing or damaged support hooks
3. Splits or cracks in deck surfaces
4. Excessive build up of foreign material on deck surfaces
5. Missing rivets (where applicable)
6. Missing rungs (where applicable)
7. Holes, dents or dimples in siderails
8. Straightness and squareness of planks
9. Holes in braces 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 caustic chemicals
13. Evidence of field welding or modification

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

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

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