

# SCAFFOLD CODE: Guidelines for Safe Practices

**Scaffold Association Announces  
Safety Code; Will Begin  
Development on  
“Procedures” Document**

**T**he promotion of safe practices in scaffolding work took a significant advance with the recent announcement by the Scaffold Contractors Association of its “Code of Safe Practices for Erecting and Dismantling Steel Scaffolds.”

The code, reproduced on the next page for wall and ceiling contractors, was months in the making by a special committee chaired by Ted Hashimoto.

In announcing the new code, D. Victor Saleeby, Managing Director of the relatively new but fast-growing association, pointed out printed copies are being distributed to association members throughout the nation.

At the same time, additional committees are continuing work on other codes of safe practice to cover other types of scaffolding work and general work hazards such as shoring, swing staging, and mobile work platforms.

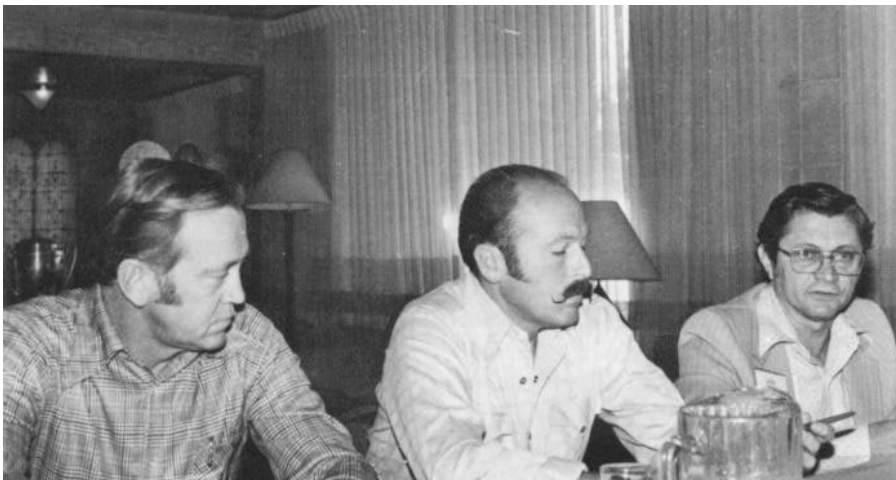
While the “Code of Safe Practices” is designed to provide workmen with safety guidelines, Saleeby said, an immediate effort will commence to develop an industry-recommended “Procedures for Erecting and Dismantling Steel Scaffolds.” These “Procedures” will be designed to provide workmen with recommended “how-to” steps to follow.

To achieve maximum effectiveness from the Code, the Scaffold Contractors Association urges each employer to provide a copy to each of his employees who is involved with scaffolding.

A master copy should be kept in the contractor’s office so that employees may sign and date a statement that they have received a copy of the Code and understand its contents.

Additional copies should be posted where visibility is high and each foreman should be provided with one.

For contractors who lease the scaffolding rather than erect it, it would be advisable to include a copy with the lease agreement. Where an unqualified person is leasing a piece of equipment, the association suggests providing him with instructions regarding safety as well as operating procedures as a step to reduce liability.



Planning the announcement of the Scaffold Contractors Association’s new “Code” on scaffolding safety are SCA

President Gerald Towse, center, flanked by Vice President David Beatty, I., and Managing Director D. Victor Saleeby.

# SCAFFOLD CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

14039 SHERMAN WAY, VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA 91405

## CODE OF SAFE PRACTICES FOR ERECTING & DISMANTLING OF STEEL SCAFFOLDS

It shall be the responsibility of all employees to read and comply with the following common sense rules which are designed to promote safety in the erecting and the dismantling of scaffolds. These rules do not purport to be all-inclusive nor to supplant or replace other additional safety and precautionary measures to cover usual or unusual conditions. If these rules in any way conflict with any state, local, or federal statute or regulation said statute or regulation shall supersede these rules and it shall be the responsibility of each employee to comply therewith.

### I. GENERAL RULES

- A. **SURVEY THE JOB SITE:** A survey shall be made of the jobsite for (a) hazards such as untamped earth fills, ditches, debris, high tension wires, unguarded openings, hazardous conditions created by other trades; (b) proper posting of notices required by law such as location of emergency services (ambulance, hospital, etc.), OSHA posters, etc.; and (c) adequacy of sanitation and drinking water.
- B. **INSPECT ALL EQUIPMENT BEFORE USING:** Never use any equipment which has any obvious defect. Defective equipment should be immediately repaired or removed from the jobsite.
- C. **DO NOT ERECT OR DISMANTLE SCAFFOLDS WHEN OTHER CRAFTS ARE WORKING DIRECTLY ABOVE OR BELOW THE AREA WHERE YOU MUST PERFORM YOUR WORK.**
- D. **NEVER USE EQUIPMENT FOR PURPOSES OR IN WAYS FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT INTENDED.**
- E. **REPORT ANY UNSAFE CONDITION. NEVER TAKE CHANCES.** Do not work on scaffolds if your physical condition is such that you feel dizzy or unsteady in any way.

### II. ERECTING SCAFFOLDS

- A. **PROVIDE ADEQUATE SILLS** for scaffold posts and use base plates.
- B. **USE ADJUSTING SCREWS** or other approved method, instead of blocking, to adjust to uneven grade conditions.
- C. **PLUMB, LEVEL, AND TIE** all scaffolds as erecting proceeds. Do not force braces to fit. Free standing scaffold towers must be restrained from tipping by guying or other means.
- D. **BRACING:** Each frame or panel shall be braced by horizontal bracing, cross bracing, or any combination thereof for securing vertical members together laterally. All brace connections shall be made secure, in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.
- E. **DO NOT CLIMB CROSS BRACES.** Keep balance.
- F. **PLANKED OR STAGED AREAS** should be provided with proper railings.
- G. **DO NOT ERECT SCAFFOLDS NEAR ANY ELECTRICAL POWER LINE UNLESS PROPER PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN.**
- H. **DO NOT USE** ladders or makeshift devices on top of scaffolds to increase the height.
- I. **PLANKING:**
  - 1. Use only "scaffold" grade plank.
  - 2. Visually inspect plank prior to use to be sure plank is not warped, damaged, or otherwise unsafe.
  - 3. Planking shall have at least 12" overlap and extend 6" beyond center of support, or be cleated at both ends to prevent sliding off supports.
  - 4. Fabricated scaffold planks and platforms (unless cleated or restrained by hooks) shall extend over their end supports not less than 6" nor more than 12".

- J. **ALL SCAFFOLDING ACCESSORIES** shall be used and installed in accordance with the manufacturers recommended procedure.
- K. **FOR ROLLING SCAFFOLDS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL RULES APPLY:**
  - 1. Joints shall be provided with lock pins, or bolts, or equivalent fastening, including caster joints.
  - 2. Wheels or casters shall be provided with a locking device and kept locked during erection and dismantling.
  - 3. Do not extend adjusting screws on rolling scaffolds more than 12".
  - 4. Do not use brackets or other platform extensions without consideration of overturning effect.
  - 5. The working platform height of a rolling scaffold must not exceed four times the smallest base dimension unless guyed or otherwise stabilized (CAL/OSHA and some Government agencies call for stricter ratio of 3 to 1).
  - 6. Cleat or secure all plank.

### III. DISMANTLING SCAFFOLDS

- A. Check to see if scaffolding has been structurally altered in any way which would make it unsafe, and, if so, reconstruct where necessary before commencing with dismantling procedures.
- B. Visually inspect plank prior to dismantling to be sure they are safe to work on.
- C. Components should be lowered as soon as dismantled in a safe manner so as to protect personnel below.
- D. Do not accumulate excess components or equipment on the level being dismantled.
- E. Dismantled equipment should be stockpiled in an orderly manner.