

Supported Scaffolds

Construction Equipment



Photo: Dante Ramirez

Scaffolds

ALT 3 – SCAFFOLD (EQ)

Supported Scaffolds are erected over sidewalks to protect pedestrians from potential debris that may fall from construction work occurring above the sidewalk. These are temporary structures that provide construction worker access to the façade of the building and also serve as a frame on which safety netting may be installed.

New York City Building Code

The Building Code sets forth standards and specifications for the installation of supported, outrigger and suspended scaffolds. Detailed safety requirements pertaining to scaffold maintenance, inspections and worker precautions and protection are also outlined in this Code. This code note addresses supported scaffolds, for suspended and outrigger scaffolds see BC [§3314.3.1](#) and BC [§3314.3.2](#).

Design of scaffolds – BC [§3314.3.1](#)

- Supported scaffolds must be designed by a registered design professional.
- Exception: Design is not required for a supported scaffold, provided:
 1. The scaffold is not an outrigger scaffold (thrust out);
 2. No hoisting equipment with a manufacturer's rated capacity greater than 2,000 pounds (907kg) will be located on the scaffold;
 3. The scaffold will not be loaded, or designed to be loaded, in excess of 75 pounds per square foot (366.15 kg/m²);
 4. The scaffold is less than 40 feet (12 192mm) in height;
 5. Side-arm or end-arm scaffold brackets are used exclusively for the support of workers; and
 6. The scaffold is a light duty scaffold, a medium duty scaffold, or a heavy duty scaffold.

Related Construction Equipment

Other types of construction equipment commonly filed in conjunction with supported scaffold includes, sidewalk sheds, safety netting, hoists, cranes, derricks and chutes.

Scaffolds

ALT 3 – SCAFFOLD (EQ)

This publication is an overview of the requirements for this type of work. There may be additional, applicable Zoning Resolution, Construction Code, Multiple Dwelling Law or Energy Code requirements.

FIRST STEPS

- PW1 – job description, reason for scaffold
- Zoning district, site designations (*special purpose districts, waterfront area or block, flood hazard area, fire district, landmark district, little 'e' DEP designated block, wetlands, 200' within MTA infrastructure*)
- Lot diagram, scope and area of work indicated
- Height of the building
- Light / medium / heavy duty / extra heavy duty classification indicated

ADMINISTRATIVE

DOB Forms

- [PW1](#) – can be filed by an owner or contractor
- [TR1](#) – by PE / RA

Related Applications

- Separate application for NB, alteration or demolition
- Separate sidewalk shed application if supported on sidewalk shed

ZONING

- N/A

MULTIPLE DWELLING LAW

- N/A

FIRE CODE

- 504.4.1(6) – Obstructing rooftop access

Scaffolds

ALT 3 – SCAFFOLD (EQ)

BUILDING CODE

Minimum Information on Plans Required - BC [§3314.3.3](#)

- Plan view and elevation view, with full dimensions, detailing:
 - The location of the scaffold.
 - Connections and attachments to the base structure, including but not limited to anchorages, fastenings, tie-ins, tie-backs, and lifelines;
 - Any structural modifications required to the base structure;
 - Netting with specific type and manufacturer indicated, overhead protection, or any other equipment attached to the scaffold;
 - Any hoisting equipment located on the scaffold;
 - Platform levels, support centers, and offsets, along with the maximum number of levels to be loaded simultaneously and the maximum loads to be imposed;
 - For a suspended scaffold, ropes, number of clips, and counterweights, as well as outrigger beams or other support devices;
 - For a suspended scaffold that will not be lowered to the street or deck of the sidewalk shed at the end of the shift, how the scaffold will be secured while work is not being performed; and
 - For a supported scaffold, structural members, as well as the founding of the scaffold, including but not limited to sidewalk sheds, floors, roofs, or ground.
- Height of the building
- Type of scaffold (supported / outrigger) – BC [§3314.3.1](#)
- Design load – BC [§3314.4.4.2](#)
- Capacity – BC [§3314.4.4.3](#)
- Safety provisions for workers and training requirements – BC [§3314.4.5.2](#)
- Construction material of the scaffold platforms – BC [§3314.5](#)
- Footings and anchorage – BC [§3314.6](#)
- “Loads imposed letter” if supported on a sidewalk shed or other structure – BC [§3314.3.4](#)

Scaffolds

ALT 3 – SCAFFOLD (EQ)

- Scaffolds supported on rooftops, check design load limit of rooftop(s) – BC §[3301.6](#) and BC §[3314.3.3](#)
- Scaffolds supported on sidewalk sheds, check load limit of sidewalk shed – BC §[3301.6](#), BC §[3314.3.3](#), BC §[3314.3.4](#), and BC §[3314.9.2](#)
- Any required structural analysis – BC §[3314.3.3](#)
- Debris netting where applicable – BC §[3314.8.2](#)
- Height to base ratio and restraints – BC §[3314.9.1](#)
- Structural stability inspection if restrained either horizontally or vertically– BC §[1704.20.1](#)
- Installation of post-installed anchors special inspection– BC §[1704.32](#), Table [1704.32](#)

ENERGY CODE

- N/A

APPLICABLE BULLETINS, DIRECTIVES, PPNS, MEMOS, RULES

- [BB 2013-011](#) – Action plan for extreme weather
- [BB 2015-018](#) – Anchors into masonry

OTHER AGENCY APPROVALS

- N/A