Newport News Shipbuilding
Contractor Environmental, Health and Safety
Resource Manual

Scaffolding (Staging)
and Fall Protection
SCAFFOLDING (STAGING)

1. **Hazard**

At NNS scaffolding is most often referred to as staging. It’s used as work platforms to place workers at elevated work sites safely; NNS consider access ladders an integral part of staging.

Fall protection is required when employees work on unguarded surfaces above five feet.

Many hazards are created with the erection, alteration, dismantling, use of scaffolding and work performed on other unguarded surfaces. Fall protection is a means to eliminate or reduce associated risks of slipping, tripping and falling to lower levels.

2. **Regulations & Requirements**

   a. Standards for erection, alteration and dismantling of scaffolds are:

      (1) Maritime 29 CRF 1915.71 (scaffolds/staging) and 1915.72 (ladders)
      (2) General Industry 29CFR 1910.28
      (3) Construction 29 CFR 1926.450 – 452,454
      (4) NNS Best management practices Y1045 Staging Standards.

   b. Standards for fall protection are:

      (1) Maritime 29 CRF 1915.159, Personal fall arrest systems
      (2) Maritime 29 CFR 1915. 160, Positioning device systems

3. During the NNS pre-approval process each contractor whose employees will erect and work on scaffolding must provide to NNS Environmental, Health and Safety Department a copy of its written program. This document must describe the contractor’s program for complying with each element of the applicable OSHA standard(s). The contractor shall provide a copy of any changes to the program on an annual basis, such as at the beginning of each year.

   The written compliance program shall specifically address the following items in addition to the items already discussed:
a. Scaffolding (staging)

(1) The responsibility for erection, alteration and dismantling of scaffolding.

(2) What makes up scaffolding such as; platform, ramps, ladders and stairways.

(3) Vendors shall use the hierarchy below, listed in order of decreasing preference, to determine the access method to elevated working and walking surfaces:

(a) Stairs (most preferred method)

(b) Inclined or vertical ladders with runs less than 20 feet offset by platforms or decks

(c) Ladders that exceed 20 feet in height only with Contractor Coordinator approval

(d) Ladders that exceed 35 feet in height only with EH&S approval

(least preferred method)

4. Swing gates shall be provided at access points to elevated working and walking surfaces.

5. Non-skid material shall be present on all Safeway ladders (system scaffold), and all other metal ladders that are not manufactured with non-skid surface.

6. Scaffolding inspection process:

a. Who will inspect scaffold

b. Frequency of scaffold inspection

c. Process for scaffolding alteration (modification).

d. Process for reporting hazards and mishaps.

7. Fall protection

a. When is fall protection required over a solid surface?

b. When is fall protection required over water?

c. When is fall protection required on roof structures?

8. NNS best management fall protection practices for work over water and in aerial lifts are:

a. Fall protection required on unguarded surfaces 15 feet or more above water.
b. Life jacket required on unguarded surfaces less than 15 feet above water.

c. Fall protection required in personnel floats (JLG, skiffs, baskets) over solid surfaces, or 15 feet or move over water.

d. Life jacket required when less than 15 feet above water riding in personnel float (aerial lifts, skiffs, and basket).