

HAZARD ALERT

Portable 'Folding' Scaffold

Date of Issue: February 2013

Industries: Construction

HAZARD SUMMARY

Officers have noticed an increased use of portable 'folding' scaffolds, of the type illustrated in the photo.

The attractions of these types of scaffolds are: light weight, portability, and reduced 'footprint' which allow them to be used in smaller workplaces.

However users need to be aware that these scaffolds must still meet the requirements of the Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations.

Risk of Injury: HIGH

Typical Causes: collapse, tipping, improper set-up



The type of unit being noted by Officers:

- No marking or label of rated load capacity – should be able to support four times the maximum load likely to be imposed
- No brakes on wheels
- Vertical bracing missing on one side
- No plan bracing (horizontal or gooser bars)
- Work platforms do not meet required width, and not secured in place (locking mechanism)
- No Manufacturer specifications

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Know and follow the applicable requirements of Part III: Scaffolds and Work Platforms of the [Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations](#).

Regardless of the type, the scaffold must be inspected by a competent person each day prior to use. Person will check for defects, damage, deterioration or loosening that may affect its strength. In addition to the daily inspection, the erection and dismantling of every scaffold will be supervised by a competent person.