

AS 4576:2020



STANDARDS  
Australia



# Guidelines for scaffolding

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AS 4576:2020

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- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australian Council of Trade Unions
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- Australian Steel Institute
- Better Regulation Division NSW
- Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
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- Hire and Rental Industry Association of Australia
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# Guidelines for scaffolding

Originated as AS/NZS 4576:1995.  
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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee BD-036, Scaffolding, to supersede AS/NZS 4576:1995.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to provide guidance for the preparation of sites for scaffolding, and the safe selection, supply, erection, alteration, dismantling, maintenance, inspection and use of scaffolding and scaffolding equipment. It is a companion to the AS(/NZS) 1576 series of Standards.

The major changes in this edition are as follows:

- (a) The format and structure of the Standard has been revised.
- (b) Guidance has been added on working over water.
- (c) Guidance has been added on using bay extension (hop-up) platforms and tie bars.
- (d) The guidance on training has been updated and no longer covers certification of scaffolders.
- (e) Clauses giving requirements for Australian and New Zealand Certificates of Competency have been deleted (now available from regulatory authorities).
- (f) Requirements for suspended scaffolds have been deleted (now in AS/NZS 1576.4).
- (g) Guidance on mast climbing work platforms has been deleted (now in AS 2550.16).
- (h) Guidance for use of harnesses attached to scaffolding has been added.
- (i) Guidance on trestle ladder scaffolds has been added.
- (j) Guidance on tying of scaffolds and on working platforms has been enhanced.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

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NOTES

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# Australian Standard®

## Guidelines for scaffolding

### Section 1 Scope and general

#### 1.1 Scope

This Standard gives practical guidance for training, the preparation of sites for scaffolding, and the safe selection, supply, erection, alteration, dismantling, maintenance, inspection and use of scaffolding and scaffolding equipment. It is a companion to the AS(/NZS) 1576 series of Standards. This series and AS/NZS 1577 take precedence over this Standard.

This Standard gives guidance for the general use of scaffolding, including the following items:

- (a) Portable ladders used as access to platforms.
- (b) Trestle scaffolds and trestle ladder scaffolds.
- (c) Bracket scaffolds.
- (d) Temporary stairways, landings, ramps and other access ways.
- (e) Temporary catch platforms.
- (f) Ropes and gin wheels.

#### 1.2 Exclusions

This Standard does not give guidance for the following items:

- (a) Temporarily installed edge protection that does not form part of the scaffold.
- (b) Portable ladders not used in conjunction with scaffolding.
- (c) Permanently installed walk ways, stairways, ladders and catwalks.
- (d) Building maintenance units.
- (e) Crane boxes, scissor hoists, boom-type elevating work platforms (i.e. cherry pickers), lifts, and combined personnel and materials hoists.
- (f) Falsework, shoring, back-propping and any other framework for the support of floors, walls, roofs and structural members of buildings, structures, ships, boats or mines.
- (g) Swing stages and boatswain's chairs.  
NOTE Requirements for swing stages and boatswain's chairs are provided in AS/NZS 1576.4.
- (h) Temporary seating stands, stages, lighting towers and camera towers for concerts, sporting events, substantially comprised of scaffolding equipment.
- (i) Temporary roofs substantially comprised of scaffolding equipment.
- (j) Mast climbing work platforms.

#### 1.3 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

NOTE Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.