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November 14, 2024

SAFETY BULLETIN
TEMPORARY BOARD IN BRACE GAP

The ANSI A10.8 (2019) Scaffold Standard; Section 24.1.3 states:

“Planking shall conform to 4.17. In locations where crossbraces pass through the platform, the interfering plank may be temporarily moved.”

This implies that a plank should be in place in the brace gap, and moved when the brace approaches the plank.

DO NOT DO THIS. IT CAN LEAD TO DAMAGE, INJURY, AND DEATH.

Users who have followed this practice forget to move the board, keep cranking even when resistance is felt, and tear the crossbrace studs off the tower possibly leading to collapse.

THE GAP MUST BE LEFT OPEN AT ALL TIMES.

The committee that writes the standard (of which I am a member) was not consulted when the 2019 version went to press. The committee is currently re-writing Section 24, and 24.1.3 will be deleted by unanimous consent of the members. Why are we confident in our position? There is **NO RECORD** of injury relating to the gap since OSHA began.

Contractors have called us stating that OSHA, or other safety authorities, have insisted that they use the temporary plank. Again, **DO NOT DO THIS**. Under the safety laws in the United States (and other territories and jurisdictions) the manufacturer is recognized as the ultimate authority on the safe use of their product when a discrepancy is found in the code.

If you need any further input or assistance when interacting with safety authorities, please call us at 318-222-0702, or my personal cell phone at area code three one eight 393-2920.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Breithaupt, Jr.", written over a large, stylized loop.

Justin Breithaupt, Jr.
Non-Stop Scaffolding, Inc.