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October 17, 2011

SAFETY BULLETIN

Re: Materials storage on Non-Stop scaffolding

Background:

Some safety standards state: "Materials shall not be stored on scaffolds or runways in excess of needs for normal placement operations or in excess of safe load limits." The rationale is that conventional frame scaffolding, consisting of many working levels, could be stocked ahead with materials for several days' work, which could exceed the allowable load limit on the scaffold structure.

Non-Stop scaffolding is classified as "Self-contained adjustable scaffold" (OSHA) and "Adjustable scaffold" (ANSI, EM-385), consisting of a single work platform that climbs a tower. This bulletin does not apply to conventional frame scaffolding with multiple work platforms.

1. Land materials on the work platform as they are consumed by the masons.
2. The maximum allowable pallet load is 3,500 pounds, stocked in every other bay. The scaffold must be assembled and erected according to the manufacturer's Assembly and Use Manual. Never exceed the maximum allowable load on the planks for the span used.
3. Do not stock more materials on the platform after work has ceased for the day. The materials remaining on the scaffolding may be left in place overnight provided the maximum allowable load is not exceeded.
4. The scaffolding must be tied to the wall according to the Non-Stop's Assembly and Use Manual.
5. If storms or high winds are expected overnight, materials deemed likely to blow away should be secured.
6. When used according to the manufacturer's Assembly and Use Manual, the scaffold is pre-engineered up to 200' high, no special plans or calculations are necessary.

The scaffolding can be considered to be overloaded if there is more than one pallet of materials weighing 3,500 pounds in every other bay.

If any questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Breithaupt, Jr.", is written over a circular stamp or seal that is partially obscured by the signature.

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

October 18, 2011

Mr. Justin Breithaupt, Jr.
Non-Stop Scaffolding
1314 Hoadley Street
Shreveport, LA 71104

RE: Platform Loading: EM-385-1-1, 14.B.05

Dear Mr. Breithaupt:

I am responding to your request for written clarification concerning the issue regarding scaffold platform loading. EM-385-1-1, 14.B.05 states that "Material shall not be stored on scaffolds or runways in excess of needs for normal placement operations or in excess of safe load limits." This regulation addresses two issues, a loading issue, and material storage.

The loading issue is straight forward: users of Non-Stop Scaffolding shall not exceed the safe load limits as specified in the equipment manual/recommendations.

The issue regarding material storage is in dispute. While the regulation is silent regarding "overnight storage," the information you provided me indicates that the Army Corps has determined that it means that material (in this case concrete block and brick) cannot be left on the platform overnight. Furthermore, the documents indicate that at least one individual is adamant that your client cannot leave material on the platform overnight. The documents are also clear that there is no exception except for an engineer who wants to "put his stamp and career on the line for that, then so be it."

There is no evidence that there is a hazard when material is left on the platform between workshifts, provided that the user complies with Non-Stop Scaffolding's Material Storage recommendations (copy attached). In fact, the requirement that all materials must be removed from the scaffold platform at the end of the workshift introduces additional unnecessary hazards to workers/employees and is discouraged.

Mr. Justin Breithaupt
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Your client should incorporate into their scaffold plans that at the end of the workshift, the competent person shall verify that he (the client) has complied with the Non-Stop recommendations (copy attached). In particular, the material must be secured as necessary from movement to ensure that it doesn't become dislodged, creating a hazard to workers. It is the user's competent person who shall determine whether the material is secure.

I have attached my Professional Engineering Seal as verification that this practice is acceptable to Non-Stop Scaffolding, does not create a greater hazard, and most importantly, is in compliance with the intent of EM-385-1-1, 14.B.05.

Sincerely,
DH GLABE & ASSOCIATES



David H. Glabe, PE
Partner



Encl.