

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Division of Labor
Office of Occupational Safety and Health
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

OSH Program Directive Number 82-1926.451-8

Subject: Subarticle 7, Section 1926.451 (w) and Section 1926.451 (a) (18)
As Applied to Welding Required on Float or Ship Scaffolds.

Standard: Subarticle 7, Section 1926.451 (w) and Section 1926.451 (a) (18),
Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South
Carolina.

**Cross Reference to
Federal Standards:** 29 CFR 1926.451 (w) and 29 CFR 1926.451 (a) (18).

Background: Subarticle 7, Section 1926.451 (a) (18) requires that no welding, burning, riveting, or open flame work shall be performed on any staging suspended by means of fiber or synthetic rope. However, Section 1926.451 (a) (18) refers to Section 1926.451 (w) for specific requirements for float or ship scaffolds, which clearly contemplates that welding will be performed from float or ship scaffolds. Thus, welding from float or ship scaffolds is not forbidden by OSH regulation. However, Section 1926.451 (w) (5) requires that supporting ropes shall be 1-inch diameter manila rope or equivalent, free from deterioration, flaws or other imperfections.

Guidelines:

- a. Subarticle 7, Section 1926.451 (w) (1) states in part that float or ship scaffolds shall not be used to support more than three men and a few light tools, such as those needed for riveting, bolting, and welding. Therefore, welding on the scaffolds is allowed, provided the supporting rope is free from defects.
- b. Subarticle 7, Section 1926.451 (w) (5) allows employers to use float or ship scaffolds supported with 1-inch diameter manila rope or equivalent, free from deterioration, chemical damage, flaws or other imperfections.
- c. Each employee shall be protected by an approved safety lifebelt and lifeline, in accordance with Section 1926.451 (w) (6).

Action: The Assistant Director/OSH Compliance and OSH Supervisors shall take action to ensure that Subarticle 7, Sections 1926.451 (w)

and 1926.451 (a) (18) are enforced in accordance with guidelines set forth above.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Rules and Regulations.

William M. Lybrand, Director
October 8, 1982