

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 82-1926.451-7

Subject: Tie-off on Multistage Suspension Scaffolds.

Standard: Subarticle 7, 1926.451 (i) (8), Rules and Regulations,
Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

**Cross Reference to
Federal Standards:** 29 CFR 1926.451 (i) (8).

Background: This directive provides specific interpretation of Section 1926.451 (i) (8) of Subarticle 7 as it pertains to multistage suspension scaffolds.

Questions have arisen to the application of Subarticle 7, Section 1926.451 (i) (8) to multistage suspension scaffolds. Multistage suspension scaffolds have two or more levels (platforms) and the usual method of fabrication results in rigid end suspension member structure. Some multistage suspension scaffolds have their overhead horizontal supports mounted on wheels to provide greater mobility.

This directive replaces OSH Program Directive Number: 75-1926.451-3, dated July 10, 1975.

Interpretation: Subarticle 7, Section 1926.451 (i) (8) requires employees on the scaffold to be tied-off to the building structure by the use of lifelines and safety belts. In the event of failure of one of the suspension lines, employees on the lower levels of the multistage scaffolding could be subject to a greater hazard by attaching their safety belts to the building structure than by attaching their safety belts to a suitable member of the scaffold structure.

Therefore, until the federal standard is revised, employees on the top level only of the multistage suspension scaffold shall be secured to the building structure. Citations for such employees to tie-off to the building structure shall be cited under Section 1926.451 (i) (8). On other levels of the multistage suspension scaffold where there is a possibility of employee exposure, such employees shall be tied-off (secured) to the scaffold structure. Citations for failure to secure to the scaffold structure shall be cited

under the General Duty Clause of Section 1.2, Subarticle 1,
providing it merits the requirements of a serious violation.

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until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Regulation.

William M. Lybrand, Director
March 19, 1982