

Scaffold Erection and Dismantling JHA

Completed instructional example | Edition v1.0 | October 6, 2026

Learning and planning resource. Adapt with the people doing the work, verify actual controls and follow required authorization. This document supplies no completed field inspections, signatures or work approval.

Work and worksite

Fictional example: a specialist crew erects and later dismantles a stationary, supported fabricated-frame scaffold beside a low-rise building for exterior repairs. The scaffold has several working levels, a specified access arrangement, and a nearby pedestrian route. Its exact dimensions, loading, ties, foundation, and fall-protection provisions must come from the project design. This example excludes suspended scaffolds, mobile towers, and mast climbers and does not supply scaffold engineering or an erection method.

- A qualified person designs the scaffold. A competent person qualified in erection and dismantling directs trained, experienced employees selected for that work.
- Identify the scaffold system, compatible components, intended workforce/material loading, design reference, manufacturer instructions, and the condition of the supporting surface.
- Plan the pedestrian diversion, material-lowering zone, overhead/electrical interfaces, access during each stage, fall protection, and rescue arrangements before components arrive.
- Determine applicable federal, state, contract, and manufacturer requirements. A color tag communicates status but cannot establish structural adequacy or replace inspection.

Actual project records needed: Location, crew and responsible people; equipment models and instructions; permits/releases; emergency arrangements; actual checks and approvals.

Task | Hazard | Control | Verification

Confirm the design and sequence

Hazard: An unsuitable configuration or improvised sequence leaves the scaffold unstable or exposes the erection crew to a fall.

Control: Have the qualified designer establish the configuration and loading. The competent erection lead reviews the sequence, access, and fall protection for each incomplete stage, including feasible protection that does not create a greater hazard.

Verification: Identify design and method references; confirm roles, selected crew, protection equipment, and any unresolved design questions.

Reasoning: A completed scaffold and a partly built scaffold present different stability and access problems.

Prepare the foundation and exclusion area

Hazard: A base settles or slides; a passing person is struck by a frame or falling component.

Control: Verify the foundation can support the scaffold loads without settlement. Install specified base plates, sills, or other adequate support. Divert pedestrians and establish controlled laydown and lifting/lowering zones.

Verification: The erection lead examines ground/support information and checks that barriers prevent people from entering the handling area.

Reasoning: Level appearance alone does not establish the capacity of a slab, fill, or underground structure.

Inspect and erect the lower stages

Hazard: Damaged components, missing braces, or incompatible connections allow collapse; handling frames injures hands or backs.

Control: Reject defective components and use the designed system. Assemble base frames, connections, bracing, and platforms in the approved sequence. Use planned handling aids and coordinated movements; keep hands clear of seating connections.

Verification: The competent person checks foundation contact, plumb, connections, and initial bracing before height is increased.

Reasoning: Early alignment and connection errors can propagate into every higher stage.

Add levels, access, ties, and edge protection

Hazard: Workers fall from incomplete levels; unsecured sections overturn; dropped components strike people below.

Control: Install ties and bracing as erection progresses in accordance with the design. Provide planned access and required protection at each stage. Do not climb cross braces. Maintain the drop zone and use controlled material transfer.

Verification: The erection lead verifies tie locations, safe access, anchorage/protection arrangements, and the next stage before the crew advances.

Reasoning: Calling a crew experienced does not remove the need to resolve its exposure while installing protective systems.

Inspect and hand over for use

Hazard: Other trades enter an incomplete or overloaded scaffold, remove a brace, or create a falling-object exposure.

Control: A competent person inspects before use, before each work shift, and after events that could affect structural integrity. Communicate permitted loads, access, limitations, and alteration control to users; maintain appropriate falling-object protection.

Verification: Record actual findings and restrictions and correct defects before use. Train users to recognize hazards and report changes.

Reasoning: A handover explains what the scaffold may support and what users must not change.

Dismantle and clear the work area

Hazard: Premature removal of ties, bracing, platforms, or access destabilizes remaining sections or leaves workers exposed.

Control: The competent erection/dismantling lead directs the planned removal sequence. Retain necessary stability, access, and fall protection for each remaining stage. Lower components in a controlled manner; do not throw them or allow unauthorized entry.

Verification: Confirm each section is ready for removal; segregate damaged components and inspect the area before removing barriers.

Reasoning: Dismantling needs its own staged decisions because the available protections progressively disappear.

Pause and reassess

- Stop for foundation movement, impact, missing ties, unauthorized changes, component damage, or a loading change.
- Reassess weather, sheeting or netting, nearby cranes, electrical exposures, and any request to move the scaffold.

Correct the condition, revise the analysis, communicate the change and obtain required authorization before restarting.

Improve the control

Needs improvement: Falls: tie off if needed.

More useful: Before each erection stage, resolve feasible safe fall protection, access, suitable attachment, and rescue under the competent person's direction.

Needs improvement: Scaffold is green-tagged.

More useful: Record the competent-person inspection and limitations; confirm actual conditions still match the inspected configuration.

Decisions that change the analysis

A brace blocks the repair area. Can the user remove it?

Stop that activity and refer the change to the responsible scaffold personnel and designer as necessary. Resolve an adequate configuration before alteration.

Wind screening is proposed after handover. What changes?

Screening can add wind loads. Review the design and anchorage implications and obtain the necessary revised instructions before installation.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.451: Scaffold general requirements

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.451>

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OSHA 1926.454: Scaffold training

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.454>

OSHA scaffold eTool: Frame scaffolds

<https://www.osha.gov/etools/scaffolding/supported/frame>

This original walkthrough was informed by review of uploaded examples, then rewritten for the stated fictional scenario using current primary references. It does not reproduce a source document or its approval record.

Walkthrough and draft builder: <https://www.toddjeromejenkins.com/jha-jsa-examples/scaffold-erection-dismantling-jha>