

# Suspended Platforms: Verify Support, Protection and Rescue

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## Why this matters

A swing stage depends on equipment above the crew as well as the platform beneath them. A tag at the access point cannot show that every connection remains correct.

Objective: Confirm readiness of a construction two-point adjustable suspension scaffold before access and travel.

## Key hazards or failure points

Support failure; damaged ropes; overload; wrong fall-arrest connection; unsafe transfer; uncontrolled movement; falling objects; stranded workers.

## Practical controls

- Use the designed and inspected suspension system with trained operators. Leave installation, alteration and repair to the designated trained personnel under required supervision. Do not move counterweights, tiebacks or attachments to make room for another trade.
- Use both guardrails and the specified personal fall-arrest system for this two-point platform. Connect only as the approved arrangement requires; a suspension rope, guardrail or convenient roof fitting is not an assumed attachment point.
- Confirm access, permitted loading, travel clearance and protection below. Establish communication, fault response and prompt rescue before exposure. Include glass, tools and other materials in the planned load and handling arrangement.

## Verify It in the Field

Identify the platform, design and competent-person inspection for this shift and after any event affecting integrity. Confirm support and rope checks have been completed; report discrepancies from safe access rather than approaching an unprotected roof edge.

Have the responsible trained person explain the actual fall-arrest arrangement and attachment points. Check equipment before use and verify required line protection. Do not substitute another lifeline configuration or test an anchorage by pulling on it.

The operator confirms prescribed hoist and safety-device checks, clear travel and operating limits. Ask how help reaches a stranded or fallen worker. Record inspection references, actual findings, unresolved restrictions, checker and time before access.

## Stop and reassess

Hold use for missing inspections, changed rigging, rope damage, abnormal travel, failed protection or uncertain loading. Reassess weather and obstructions. Use the trained emergency procedure; do not climb out, override a device or attempt an improvised rescue. Correct and obtain required reinspection before restart.

## Ask the crew

1. Who verified the support system today?
2. Where does my approved fall-arrest connection go?
3. What happens if the platform stops between levels?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.451, 1926.454 and 1926.502(d); actual suspension-system design and instructions.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: [toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/suspended-platform-safety](https://toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/suspended-platform-safety)