

Concrete Formwork: Verify Stability Before Placement

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Why this matters

A form can look complete while its support or bracing differs from the design. Concrete delivery creates time pressure; establish the readiness decision before the first truck arrives.

Objective: Match the installed formwork and shoring to current requirements and identify the inspection and hold points.

Key hazards or failure points

Unreviewed revisions; damaged shores; unsuitable bearing; missing bracing; changed loads or placement sequence; unsafe access.

Practical controls

- Keep current formwork and shoring drawings, including revisions, available at the jobsite. Responsible personnel resolve differences before loading.
- Use the specified supports, connections and bracing. Confirm anticipated loads and the planned placement sequence against the actual design; appearance cannot establish capacity.
- Arrange shoring inspections before erection and immediately before, during and immediately after concrete placement. Identify who monitors changes and can stop affected work.

Verify It in the Field

From protected access, match the pour area to the drawing revision. Have the responsible inspector verify installed components, connections and bracing against that arrangement.

Confirm support and bearing findings are recorded. Ask what design information covers material staging, equipment and changed placement loads; do not improvise a load test.

Name the inspection owner for each placement stage and demonstrate the communication path without loading the system. Record unresolved items and the authorized release.

Stop and reassess

Hold placement for an unreviewed change, missing inspection, damaged or displaced support, movement, or uncertain loading. Keep people clear of instability; do not send a worker underneath to tighten or repair it. Obtain a safe correction and recheck.

Ask the crew

1. Which revision covers this pour area?
2. Who observes the supports during placement and receives a stop call?
3. What change would invalidate today's readiness decision?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.703; current formwork design and placement plan.

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

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/concrete-formwork-stability-bracing