



Safety Bulletin Number: **0000024**

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Department of Labour, Skills, and Immigration

Pumpjack Scaffolds

Legal information

The use of pumpjack scaffolds (pumpjacks) is governed by subsection 23.5 and 1.10 of the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*.

Summary

Pursuant to subsection 23.5 (3) and 1.10 (1) of the Nova Scotia *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*, “a person must use pumpjack scaffolds in accordance with this Section”, and “ensure that any equipment, components of equipment or components of a system are erected, installed, assembled, used, handled, stored, adjusted, maintained, repaired, inspected, serviced, tested, cleaned and dismantled in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications for the equipment, components or system”. Furthermore, subsection 1.5 (1) states “If there is any conflict between these regulations and a manufacturer’s specifications or a standard incorporated by reference into these regulations, these regulations prevail.”

Pumpjacks must have bracing installed: at least every 4.6 m, starting at the base of the scaffold, plus additional bracing as required in the manufacturer’s specification.

In addition to the requirements under section 23.5, pumpjacks must be installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. There are several manufacturers of pumpjacks, but common requirements are as follows: guardrails, safety nets, and end rails must be installed so that there are no openings greater than



SAFETY BULLETIN



14" around workers; work platforms must not be more than 14" from walls; support poles and work platforms must be level and plumb; poles are to be installed on firm ground with sill plates when installed on soil; system components and work platforms must be compatible with each type of pumpjack – no makeshift components.

What does this mean to employers, constructors, and employees?

- Pumpjacks must be installed and used in accordance with the regulation and manufacturer's instructions. Refer to the instructions supplied with each system in use and follow them.
- Serious injuries and fatalities are possible as a result of falls from pumpjacks.
- Non-compliance with the regulations and manufacturer's specifications have been frequently observed during workplace inspections, resulting in Stop Work Orders and Compliance Orders being issued due to safety hazards.
- Verification and enforcement of these requirements is increasing. Employers and employees both have a shared responsibility.

Contact us

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