



Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Scaffolding in Queensland

To perform scaffolding work in Queensland, you must hold a valid licence and be competent (through training and experience) to undertake the work. Scaffolding is considered high risk work and there are consequences for not performing the work safely.

The information below explains when you need a scaffold licence, how to get one and the responsibilities associated with holding a licence.

What is scaffolding and scaffolding work?

Scaffolding is a temporary structure, not including a trestle ladder, supporting a platform used to perform work.

Scaffolding work is the erection, alteration or dismantling of scaffolding.

What do I need to perform scaffolding work?

To perform scaffolding work you need to have the following:

- hold a licence to perform scaffolding work
- hold a scaffold certificate or a licence that is issued under a corresponding law
- be a trainee in the high risk work of scaffolding.

When do I need a scaffold licence?

If you wish to perform scaffolding work, where a person or thing may fall more than four metres from the scaffold, you must hold a high risk work licence for scaffolding.

Example

Scenario one

A new scaffold is being erected on a building to render the existing brickwork. The height of the completed scaffold will be 16 metres. A licensed scaffolder must erect the scaffold from the ground as the height of the final structure will be more than four metres.

Scenario two

Existing scaffolding on a building needs to be altered. The completed scaffold is six metres and the alteration needs to take place at two metres. A licensed scaffolder must carry out the alteration.

When is a licence not required?

A licence is not required if the height of the completed scaffold is less than four metres and a person or thing cannot fall more than four metres. However, regardless of the height of the scaffold, persons conducting a business or undertaking and the principal contractors have an obligation to ensure the workplace health and safety of themselves, workers and others on site. Obligation holders need to provide information, instruction, training and supervision to workers in the safe erection, dismantling, maintenance and alteration of scaffolds.

Example

Scaffolding needs to be erected in order to paint the outside of a building. The height of the completed scaffold will be three and a half metres and there is no potential for persons or things to fall more than four metres.

The person erecting the scaffold does not require a licence; however the person does need to be competent to perform the work.

Did you know?

If the principal contractor is supplying the scaffold for use by various trades, the principal contractor has the responsibility to maintain the scaffold to ensure it is safe for its intended use.

Which licence do I need?

Licence type		Work allowed
SB	Basic scaffolder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefabricated scaffolds • Cantilevered hoist with a load limit not exceeding 500 kilograms (materials only) • Ropes • Gin wheels • Safety nets and static lines • Bracket scaffolds (tank and formwork).
SI	Intermediate scaffolder	All of SB and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tube and coupler scaffolds including tube and coupler covered ways and gantries • cantilever crane loading platforms • cantilever and spurred scaffolds • barrow ramps and sloping platforms • scaffolding associated with perimeter safety screens and shutters • mast climbers.
SA	Advanced scaffolder	All of SB, SI and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hung scaffolds, including scaffolds hanging from tubes, wire ropes and chains • suspended scaffolds.

How do I get a scaffold licence?

Contact a registered training organisation (RTO) to book in for the course 30497QLD – Course in operating a crane, rigging and scaffolding specifically units OHSCER219A Scaffolding Basic

or OHSCER220A Scaffolding Intermediate or OHSCER221a Scaffolding Advanced.

Once you have successfully completed any of these units of competency, you may apply for your scaffold licence.

How much does a licence cost?

\$68.10 (licence only). The training course listed above is an additional cost.

How long is my licence valid?

Scaffold licences are valid for five years. Each licence lists the licence class and includes an expiry date.

Once the five-year period has expired, you will need to contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) to renew your licence.

Is my licence nationally recognised?

Yes. Scaffold licences are recognised throughout Australia.

Licence holders responsibilities

A licence holder may have their licence suspended or cancelled if it can be demonstrated that they had not erected scaffolding safely.

Holders of high risk work licences are expected to comply with the obligations in the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*. This includes:

- perform the work or activity in a manner that minimises the risk of illness, injury or death to people
- are not negligent or incompetent when performing the work or activity.

Additionally licence holders are expected to:

- advise WHSQ in writing of any changes to information which may affect their licence
- keep their licence on them for inspection by WHSQ on request
- apply for a replacement licence if it is lost, stolen or destroyed, or
- ask WHSQ to amend or cancel the licence if necessary.

What happens if I perform scaffolding work without a valid licence?

Performing high risk work without a valid licence is illegal. The employer can receive an on the spot fine for allowing a worker to perform this work and a person can also receive an on the

spot fine for performing work without a valid licence.

If caught working unlicensed, inspectors from WHSQ may issue prohibition notices to obligation holders. All site work requiring a licensed scaffolder will immediately stop until a licensed scaffolder is available. This can delay the construction work and can be costly to the contractor.

For more information

To find out more about scaffolding requirements, view the *Scaffolding Code of Practice 2004* at www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call the Workplace Health and Safety Info Line on 1300 369 915.

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