

Scaffolding Glossary of Terms

A

ACCESS PLATFORM: A platform that gives access to and from places of work to persons, materials and equipment.

ACCESSORY: A fitting that is able to be attached to a structural member of a scaffold, or to join a structural member to something else.

AS: Australian Standard - followed by a number which denotes a particular publication.

AUTHORISED PERSON: Person given the authority to perform specific tasks or grant permission for others to perform specific tasks.

B

BARROW HOIST: Modular transportable lifting device used to handle light loads.

BAY LENGTH: The horizontal distance between any two longitudinally-adjacent standards in an independent scaffold or a single-pole scaffold, or the horizontal distance between any two longitudinally-adjacent support points on the cradle of a suspended scaffold.

BACK SPLICE: A splice in the end of a fibre rope to prevent it from unlaying.

BALD EYE: An eye in a rope which is not protected by a thimble. It is also called a 'soft eye'.

BIRDCAGE SCAFFOLD: An independent scaffold consisting of more than two rows of standards connected by ledgers and transoms.

BLOCK AND TACKLE: A sheave block or blocks used with fibre rope.

BOATSWAIN'S CHAIR: A suspended scaffold where the platform is a chair or similar device, suitable for use by one person.

BODY BELT: A safety belt designed to be worn around the waist and which does not have shoulder straps or leg straps.

BOOM-TYPE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM: A powered - telescoping device, hinged device or articulated device or any combination of these used to support a platform on which personnel, equipment and materials may be elevated to perform work. Also known as "cherry pickers".

BRACKET SCAFFOLD: A scaffold that has a platform carried on frames attached to or supported by a permanent or temporary construction.

BRICKGUARD: A meshed panel secured between a guardrail and toeboard, and sometimes incorporating a kickplate.

BRICKLAYER'S SCAFFOLD: A single-pole scaffold.

BUSH ROLLER CHAIN: Chain constructed with parallel flat links and cylindrical rollers, such as bicycle and motorcycle drive chains.

C

CANTILEVER: A beam, structural member or similar which is anchored at one end and which is free at the other end.

CANTILEVER BUILDERS' HOIST: A builders' hoist where the car, bucket or platform is cantilevered from, and travels up and down externally to a face of, the support structure.

CANTILEVER PLATFORM MATERIALS HOIST: A powered builder's hoist which has the lift platform cantilevered from the hoist tower. It moves materials only, up and down the face of a building or structure. Also called a 'barrow hoist'.

CANTILEVER SCAFFOLD: A scaffold that is supported by cantilevered load-bearing members.

CANTILEVERED CRANE LOADING PLATFORM: A temporary loading bay cantilevered from the face of a building or structure to land or lift crane handled loads.

CAR: Load carrying carriage on a materials and personnel hoist.

CASTOR: A swivelling wheel attached to a scaffold, to contain falling debris.

CHERRY PICKER: See Boom type elevating work platform.

CLIMBING FRAME: An internal or external frame used to lift the crane from the tower sections of a tower crane for climbing up or down.

COMPETENT PERSON: A person suitably qualified, adequately trained and appropriately experienced for the particular class or kind of work described.

COUNTERWEIGHT: A weight or series of weights that counterbalance a scaffold against overturning.

CRANE: An appliance intended for raising and lowering a load and moving it horizontally, but excluding industrial lift trucks, earthmoving machinery, amusement structures, tractors, industrial robots, conveyors, building maintenance equipment, suspended scaffolds and lifts.

D

DEBRIS NET: A fine mesh net usually laid over an industrial safety net in order to catch small light items of falling debris.

DERRICK CRANE: A slewing strut-boom crane with the boom pivoted at the base of a mast which is either guyed (guy derrick) or held by backstays (stiff-leg derrick). Can luff under load.

DOUBLE ROPE SUSPENDED SCAFFOLD: A scaffold where the cradle is suspended using two hoists and two suspension ropes at each support point.

DRAGLINE: A crane fitted with a bucket or scoop which is thrown outwards and retrieved by a drag cable arrangement.

DROP SCAFFOLD: A hung scaffold.

DUAL COVERAGE: Work which can be performed by someone who holds either the appropriate class of rigging certificate or the appropriate class of scaffolding certificate, because the work is within the scope of both types of certificate.

E

EOHTC: Electric overhead travelling crane - an electric powered bridge or gantry crane.

EWP: Elevating work platform.

ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM: A telescoping device, scissor device or articulating device used to support a working platform.

EXTENSION LADDER: A non self supporting portable ladder that is adjustable in length and consists of two or more sections with guides or brackets to permit length adjustment.

F

FABRICATED HUNG SCAFFOLD: A pre-assembled scaffold hung from another structure but which is not capable of being raised or lowered when in use. It is sometimes used for large steel erection projects.

FINIAL COUPLER: A coupler that joins two scaffold tubes in the same plane.

FIXED CRADLE: A cradle that does not traverse horizontally, but is capable of being raised and lowered.

FRAME SCAFFOLD: A scaffold assembled from prefabricated frames, braces and accessories.

FRAME TRESTLE SCAFFOLD: A scaffold, other than a trestle ladder, consisting of self supporting stands that support scaffold planks.

FREESTANDING SCAFFOLD: A scaffold that is not attached to any other structure and is stable against overturning, on its own account or if necessary assisted by stabilisers, outriggers, counterweights or backup bays.

G

GANTRY: A structure, constructed from structural steel, scaffolding or structural timber, that is primarily intended to support a protection deck or portable buildings such as amenity sheds.

GANTRY CRANE: A powered crane with one or more bridge beams. The beams are supported at each end by legs mounted on travelling end carriages. They have a crab with one or more hoisting units that are able to travel across the bridge beam or beams. Used where there is no supporting building for the crane.

H

HAMMERHEAD CRANE: A tower crane with a counterweighted horizontal boom which supports a traversing crab for hoisting.

HAZARD: An object or situation likely to cause an incident leading to injury or death.

HEAD BLOCK: The top block in a purchase, tackle or block at the head of a crane boom or hoist.

HEADACHE BALL: A spherical overhauling weight.

HEAVY DUTY WORKING PLATFORM: A scaffold platform with a duty live load capacity of 675 kg per bay. This is three times the capacity of a light duty platform.

HEIGHT OF A SCAFFOLD: The vertical distance from the supporting structure to the highest working platform of the scaffold.

HOIST: An appliance used to raise or lower a load with no horizontal movement.

HOISTS: Machines designed to lift materials and personnel.

HOISTING: Raising or lowering a load.

HOOK BLOCK: The lower block on a crane which incorporates a hook for slinging loads.

HUNG SCAFFOLD: An independent scaffold that is hung from another structure but is not capable of being raised or lowered when in use.

HYDRAULIC BOOM CRANE: A crane which has a boom which luffs using hydraulic power and usually also telescopes using hydraulic power.

I

INDEPENDENT SCAFFOLD: A scaffold consisting of two or more rows of standards connected together longitudinally and transversely.

INDIVIDUAL CRADLE: A cradle of one bay length.

INTERNAL PERIMETER SCAFFOLD: A scaffold erected alongside the inside perimeter of a penetration or shaft in a building or other structure.

L

LADDER BRACKET SCAFFOLD: A bracket scaffold consisting of two or more single ladders or extension ladders that support planks by means of brackets, to provide a working platform.

LIFT: The vertical distance from the supporting surface to the lowest ledger of a scaffold or level at which a platform can be constructed. Also, the vertical distance between adjacent ledgers or levels of a scaffold at which a platform can be constructed.

LIGHT DUTY WORKING PLATFORM: A platform on a scaffold with a duty live load capacity of 225 kg per bay.

LOADING BAY: A platform on a scaffold for the storage of materials and equipment.

LOCOMOTIVE CRANE: A crane designed and intended for use on railway tracks.

LOWER BLOCK: The bottom block in a tackle or purchase from which the load is suspended.

M

MSDS: Material safety data sheet.

MAST CLIMBING WORK PLATFORM: A work platform used for temporary purposes to raise personnel and materials to a working position by means such as a rack and pinion drive mounted on an extendible mast, which may be tied to a building.

MATERIALS HOIST: A builder's hoist used for raising and lowering materials (not personnel) including a cantilevered platform materials hoist.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET: Manufacturer's or supplier's information about a substance, including any hazards associated with its transportation, storage and use.

MEDIUM DUTY WORKING PLATFORM: A platform on a scaffold with a duty live load capacity of 450 kg per bay. This is twice the capacity of a light duty platform.

MOBILE CRANE: A crane which can travel over a supporting surface without the need for fixed runways or railway tracks and which relies on gravity for stability.

MOBILE SCAFFOLD: An independent free standing scaffold mounted on castors.

MODULAR SCAFFOLD: A scaffold assembled from prefabricated individual components, braces and accessories.

O

OH&S: Occupational health and safety.

Outrigger: The structural member of a supported scaffold used to increase the base width of a scaffold in order to provide support for and increased stability of the scaffold.

P

PERIMETER SCAFFOLD: A scaffold erected alongside the external face of a building or other structure.

PREFABRICATED PLATFORM: A framed assembly of one bay length, incorporating a walking surface, that is capable of connecting to its support structure in such a way as not be inadvertently dislodged. (One or more prefabricated platform units can be used side by side and end to end to form a working platform.)

PREFABRICATED SCAFFOLD: A scaffold assembled from prefabricated components and manufactured so that the geometry of the scaffolding is predetermined.

PUTLOG SCAFFOLD: A single pole scaffold.

PUTLOG TRESTLE SCAFFOLD: A scaffold consisting of scaffold planks that are supported at one end by non self supporting stands and at the other end by a wall.

R

RETURN: A part of a scaffold set up around the corner of a building or structure.

RIGGING: The use of mechanical loadshifting equipment and associated gear to move, place or secure a load including plant, equipment or members of a building or structure and to ensure the stability of those members, and for the setting up and dismantling of cranes and hoists, other than the setting up of a crane or hoist which only requires the positioning of integral outriggers or stabilisers.

ROUGH TERRAIN CRANE: A mobile crane designed to operate on unimproved natural terrain and disturbed terrain of construction sites.

S

SAFE WORKING LOAD: The maximum load which may be applied to a crane, hoist, rope, chain or sling for particular conditions of use.

SCAFFOLD: A temporary structure for supporting access platforms or working platforms. (See also the definitions for birdcage scaffold, boatswain's chair, cantilever scaffold, freestanding scaffold, hung scaffold, independent scaffold, mobile scaffold, putlog scaffold, single-pole scaffold, spur scaffold, suspended scaffold and tower scaffold.)

SCAFFOLDER: A person engaged in erecting, altering or dismantling scaffolding.

SCAFFOLDING EQUIPMENT: Any component, assembly or machine used or intended to be used for the construction of scaffolding.

A serial hoist used with a suspension rope to raise and lower a cradle or boatswain's chair during normal operation.

SHUTTER BRACKET SCAFFOLD: A bracket scaffold where the brackets are attached to formwork shutters.

SINGLE POLE SCAFFOLD: A scaffold consisting of a single row of standards that are connected together by ledgers and putlogs fixed to ledgers and built into the wall of a building or structure.

SINGLE ROPE SUSPENSION SYSTEM: A method of suspending a cradle using one hoist and a single suspension rope at each support point.

SLEWING CRANE: A crane with a boom or jib which has slewing capability.

SLEWING MOBILE CRANE: A powered mobile slewing crane. It does not refer to a front end loader, backhoe, excavator or similar equipment when configured for crane operation.

SLUNG SCAFFOLD: A hung scaffold.

SPECIAL DUTY WORKING PLATFORM: A platform on a scaffold designed for live loads greater than 675 kg per bay.

SPUR SCAFFOLD: A scaffold that is partially supported by inclined load bearing members.

STUD BRACKET SCAFFOLD: A bracket scaffold of which the brackets are attached to studs of a timber frame building or other structure.

SUSPENDED SCAFFOLD: A scaffold incorporating a suspended platform which can be raised and lowered in normal use, including a boatswain's chair.

SUSPENSION RIG: The portion of a suspended scaffold (including a trolley track) which is mounted at a higher level than the cradle and which supports and positions the cradle. Sometimes called a 'roof rig'.

SUSPENSION MOUNTED HOIST: A scaffolding hoist that is mounted on a suspension rig or trolley track, with one end of the rope attached to the cradle.

SWING STAGE: A suspended scaffold with a single row of suspension ropes

T

TANK BRACKET SCAFFOLD: A bracket scaffold of which the brackets are able to be attached to the face of a metal tank, duct, boiler, structural beam or similar.

TOWER CRANE: A boom or jib crane mounted on a tower structure.

TOWER FRAME SCAFFOLD: A prefabricated scaffold consisting of fabricated units and only able to be erected in the form of a tower.

TOWER SCAFFOLD: A scaffold of one bay.

TRACK MOUNTED CRANE: A mobile crane mounted on a crawler track base. It is not usually fitted with outriggers.

TRAVELLING CRADLE: A cradle capable of being moved horizontally.

TRAVERSING CRADLE: A travelling cradle.

TRESTLE LADDER SCAFFOLD: A scaffold consisting of trestle ladders supporting scaffold planks.

TRESTLE SCAFFOLD: A scaffold consisting of trestles and planks.

TUBE AND COUPLER SCAFFOLDING: A scaffold of which the standards, ledgers, braces and ties are circular tubes that are joined together by means of purpose designed couplers.

V

VEHICLE LOADING CRANE: A powered slewing crane mounted on a vehicle for the principal purpose of loading and unloading the vehicle.

W

WINCH: An appliance which provides a means of hoisting or hauling a load.

WORK CAGE: A suspended scaffold cradle supported by a single suspension rope. Usually designed for one person.

WORK CAGE: A cradle that is supported by a single suspension rope.

WORKING PLATFORM: A platform that is intended to support persons, materials and equipment.