

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Scaffolding

Part 1: General requirements



AS/NZS 1576.1:2019

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- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australian Council of Trade Unions
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- Business New Zealand
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- Engineers Australia
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- Master Builders Australia
- National Scaffolding Association of Australia
- SafeWork NSW
- Scaffolding, Access and Rigging New Zealand
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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee BD-036, Scaffolding, to supersede AS/NZS 1576.1:2010.

The scaffolding series of Standards comprises the following:

AS/NZS 1576.1, *Scaffolding, Part 1: General requirements* (this Standard)

AS/NZS 1576.2, *Scaffolding, Part 2: Couplers and accessories*

AS 1576.3, *Scaffolding, Part 3: Prefabricated and tube-and-coupler scaffolding*

AS/NZS 1576.4, *Scaffolding, Part 4: Suspended scaffolding*

AS/NZS 1576.5, *Scaffolding, Part 5: Prefabricated splitheads and trestles*

AS/NZS 1576.6, *Scaffolding, Part 6: Metal tube-and-coupler scaffolding—Deemed to comply with AS/NZS 1576.3*

The objective of this Standard is to provide users, manufacturers and designers of scaffolding systems with unified rules for the design and detailing of scaffolding systems using principles of engineering design as detailed in this Standard.

Scaffolding required to also act as roof edge protection is now linked to AS/NZS 4994.1, *Temporary edge protection, Part 1: General requirements* and AS/NZS 4994.2, *Temporary edge protection, Part 2: Roof edge protection—Installation and dismantling*.

The major changes in this edition are as follows:

- (a) New definitions added for various types of anchors post-installed into concrete and masonry, erection platforms and special work zones.
- (b) System combinations substantially revised.
- (c) Duty actions expanded to include actions for special work zones, partial area loads for loading platforms and the duty load for a closed platform. Duty rating for a ladder hatch within a working platform has been specified.
- (d) Prefabricated platform units are now required to conform to the performance requirements of AS/NZS 1577.
- (e) Connection stiffness deleted.
- (f) Drilled-in anchors now referred to as concrete anchors. Concrete anchors substantially revised.
- (g) Bay and platform dimensions generally revised.
- (h) Stairways and landings revised to clarify the requirement for toeboards and kickplates.
- (i) Climbing of end frames now allowed with specified limitations.
- (j) Additional requirements added for minor scaffolds.
- (k) Surface finish of cast iron and steel components substantially revised.
- (l) [Appendix E](#) (informative) added, listing assumptions for the design and installation of anchors.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

This Standard incorporates a Commentary on some clauses. The Commentary directly follows the relevant clause, is designated by "C" preceding the clause number and is printed in italics in a panel. The Commentary is intended to help readers understand the background to the clause but does not form part of the clause.

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NOTES

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Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This Standard sets out design and operational requirements for scaffolding systems, scaffolding equipment and scaffolds. It includes specifications for catch platforms erected on scaffolds and covers temporary stairways for use on a general construction site.

Where specified, particular requirements of other parts of this series of Standards will take precedence over specific requirements of this Part.

NOTE 1 When importing scaffolding equipment and/or components, the use of Standards from another country may not result in conformance with this series. Design, performance and/or test criteria may be of a lesser level in other Standards. It is imperative to ensure that a Standard from another country is equivalent to this series before assuming scaffolding equipment to be in conformance with this Standard.

NOTE 2 For the purposes of this Standard some types of equipment that incorporate temporary working platforms may not be considered to be a scaffold. These types of equipment may include the following:

- (a) Equipment covered in other Standards, for example —
 - (i) elevating work platforms, AS/NZS 1418.10;
 - (ii) mast climbing work platforms, AS 1418.16;
 - (iii) portable ladders, AS/NZS 1892 series; and
 - (iv) falsework constructed primarily to support concrete, AS 3610 (all parts).
- (b) Stools under 1 m in height which may allow for height adjustment but do not require assembly prior to use.

NOTE 3 Trestle ladders are covered in the AS/NZS 1892 series. It is intended that trestle ladder scaffolds will be incorporated into AS/NZS 1576.5.

1.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document:

NOTE Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS 1170.4, *Structural design actions, Part 4: Earthquake actions in Australia*

AS 1391, *Metallic materials—Tensile testing at ambient temperature*

AS 1444, *Wrought alloy steels—Standard, hardenability (H) series and hardened and tempered to designated mechanical properties*

AS 1576.3, *Scaffolding, Part 3: Prefabricated and tube-and-coupler scaffolding*

AS 1831, *Ductile cast iron*

AS 1832, *Malleable cast iron*

AS 2321, *Short-link chain for lifting purposes*

AS 2423, *Coated steel wire fencing products for terrestrial, aquatic and general use*