

## INSPECTION OF SCAFFOLDING.

2° and 3° GEO. VI., No. XLV.

No. 45 of 1938.

**AN ACT to amend the Inspection of Scaffolding Act, 1924.**

[Assented to 31st January, 1939.]

**B**E it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Inspection of Scaffolding Act Amendment Act, 1938*, and shall be read as one with the *Inspection of Scaffolding Act, 1924* (No. 39 of 1924), as amended by Acts Nos. 21 of 1926 and 13 of 1930, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act. Short title.

2. Section one of the principal Act is hereby amended by deleting from subsection (2) all the words after the word "area" in line two and inserting in lieu thereof the words "which for the purpose of this Act shall be the whole area comprised within a radius of twenty-five miles from the General Post Office in the City of Perth, provided that this Act shall be in force and have effect elsewhere throughout the State wherever scaffolding exceeding fifteen feet in height from the horizontal base is used." Amendment of s. 1 of the principal Act.

3. Section two of the principal Act is amended by inserting after the definition of "regulations" a new definition as follows:— Amendment of s. 2 of the principal Act.

"Scaffolder" means the person in charge of the erection or demolition of scaffolding and/or gear and being the holder of a license under this Act empowering him to act in such employment.

Insertion of  
new section  
10A in the  
principal Act.

4. A section is inserted in the principal Act after section ten as follows:—

Licensed  
scaffolder to  
be employed.

10A. (1) On all scaffolding exceeding or likely to exceed twenty-seven feet in height from the horizontal base there shall be at least one duly licensed scaffolder employed or engaged in the supervision of the erection or demolition of scaffolding or gear.

(2) Any person who fails, neglects or refuses to employ or engage a licensed scaffolder as required by the preceding subsection shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every day or part of a day during which scaffolding or gear is erected or demolished without a duly licensed scaffolder being employed or engaged in the supervision thereof.

Amendment  
of s. 11 of the  
principal Act.

5. Section eleven of the principal Act is repealed and a new section inserted in lieu thereof as follows:—

Inspector may  
give direc-  
tions as to  
scaffolding,  
etc.

*Ibid.*, s. 12.

11. (1) Where it appears to an inspector—

(a) that the use of any scaffolding or gear would be dangerous to the life or limb of any workman employed on the works whether he is or is not using such scaffolding or gear;

(b) that with regard to any scaffolding or gear erected or used or in the course of erection or use this Act is not being complied with,

he may, by notice in writing, give directions to the owner thereof in order to prevent accidents or ensure a compliance with this Act and such person shall, unless notice of appeal is given as hereinafter provided, forthwith carry out such directions.

(2) When it appears to an inspector that the employment of any person on any building or structure without the use of scaffolding would be dangerous to human life or limb, he may, by notice to any person so employed and the owner of the building or structure, give directions for scaffolding to be used to his satisfaction and unless notice of appeal is given as hereinafter provided, such directions shall be forthwith carried out.

(3) When it appears to an inspector that the employment of any person on the construction, sinking, alteration or repair of any well exceeding a depth of twelve feet below the ground surface level without the use of scaffolding, shoring, tonging and timbering, or any one or more of them, would be dangerous to life or limb he may by notice to the owner of such well, or his agent or contractor, or to any person employed on such work, direct that scaffolding, shoring, tonging and timbering, or any one or more of them as specified in the notice, shall be erected or carried out to the satisfaction of the inspector and be used for such work and unless notice of appeal is given as hereinafter provided such direction shall forthwith be carried out.

(4) Where any inspector gives any notice prescribed by subsection (1) or subsection (3) of this section he may at the same or any other time order any persons forthwith to cease to use or to work in connection with or near the scaffolding or gear or the well, as the case may be, until such directions or any order on appeal therefrom have or has been complied with. Any such order of an inspector may be rescinded by him.

(5) The person to whom such notice or order has been given, or the owner, within seven days after the receipt of such notice or order, may serve on the inspector a written requisition to refer the matter to the decision of the nearest police or resident magistrate who shall hear and determine the dispute in manner prescribed, and whose decision shall be final.

(6) Any person who fails to comply with any notice or order given to him by an inspector in pursuance of this section, or any decision on appeal therefrom, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.

6. Subsection (2) of section twenty-five of the principal Act is amended by the insertion of a new paragraph as follows:—

Amendment  
of s. 25 of the  
principal Act.

(a1) Providing for and prescribing the standards for the examination of persons desiring to act as scaffolders and the granting of licenses to them.

Amendment  
of the  
schedule to  
the principal  
Act.

cf. No. 13 of  
1930, s. 6  
(b).

7. The schedule to the principal Act is amended—

(a) by deleting from regulation 3 in Part II. the word “an” in line two and inserting in lieu thereof the words “the Chief” and by inserting after the words “erection or use” in line three the phrase “Every such notice of intention shall be accompanied by the requisite fee as hereinafter prescribed by regulation 20 of these regulations”;

(b) by adding to regulation 16 a new paragraph (iii) as follows:—

(iii) The rungs of all ladders used or intended to be used by builders’ labourers shall be spaced at eight and one-half inches (8½ inches) centre to centre;

(c) by deleting from lines four and five of paragraph (1) of regulation 20 in Part II. the words “on completion of the inspection” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “on giving notice of intention as hereinbefore prescribed”;

(d) by inserting in Part II. after regulation 20 a new sub-heading as follows:—

“Scaffolding Constructed of Steel Tubes”

and new regulations thereunder as follows:—

Permissible Loading.

20A. The load due to the weight of men and materials uniformly distributed over the area of a scaffolding platform shall not exceed forty-five (45) pounds per square foot of area.

The weight of a concentrated load applied to any bay of a scaffolding shall not exceed four hundred (400) pounds, provided that this load and a distributed load shall not act simultaneously.

Not more than two (2) working platforms shall be set up and used on a frame at any one time, but short platforms may be set up in different positions upon the frame, provided that the total area of these platforms supported by any vertical would not exceed that supported when two (2) full length platforms are set up.

General Arrangement.

20B. In general arrangement, the scaffolding shall comprise a number of verticals or uprights to

which are connected horizontal members (ledgers) supporting putlogs on which are laid the scaffold planks, the complete frame being braced both longitudinally and transversely.

#### Materials.

20C. (i) Tubes.—To be of mild steel round pipes, steam quality, of not less than one and twenty-nine thirty-seconds ( $1\frac{29}{32}$ ) of an inch outside diameter, one and a half ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) inch bore and a wall thickness of not less than number 6 British Imperial standard wire gauge, such pipes to be straight and free from indentations, corrosion and other like defects. The ends of all tubes shall be squared to ensure even bearing over the whole area of the section at joints and other like connections.

(ii) Fittings.—The fittings or devices used for connecting the various members of the scaffolding shall only be those approved in writing by the Chief Inspector.

All fittings shall accurately embrace, over the whole area of their bearing surfaces, the member or members on which they are used.

Where the efficacy of fittings is dependent on frictional grip, such fittings shall not be used to transmit tension forces.

Fittings having screw threads in blind bosses or nuts, in which the amount of screw thread or nut cannot be directly observed, shall not be used.

(iii) Platform planks.—Shall be of the best quality oregon (Douglas fir) or of an approved species of Australian hardwood timber.

#### Construction.

20D. (i) The height of the topmost platform shall not exceed one hundred and fifty feet (150 feet), such height being measured from the base of vertical to the surface of the platform.

(ii) Verticals shall be spaced not more than six feet for masons' scaffolds, eight feet for bricklayers' scaffolds, ten feet for painters' light scaffolds apart. Joints in verticals shall not occur at a distance greater than nine (9) inches from a ledger.

(iii) Verticals shall be founded on base plates of approved design and construction. Verticals shall be straight throughout and shall be set up truly vertical. The centre point of any cross section of a vertical shall not diverge more than one-quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of an inch from a vertical passing through the centre point of a cross section of the tube at the foot of the upright.

Where necessary, suitable guards or fenders shall be provided to prevent verticals sustaining damage from any source.

(iv) Each ledger shall be supported by and at each vertical. The distance apart of ledgers on vertical shall not exceed six (6) feet, provided that in emergent cases, the distance from the base of the scaffolding to the first ledger may be increased to not more than ten (10) feet. Joints in ledgers shall not occur in adjacent panels of the scaffolding frame. A joint shall not be made at the centre of the distance between two verticals and the distance from one vertical to the centre of the joint shall not exceed twenty-seven (27) inches.

(v) Ledgers shall be continuous the whole length of the scaffolding frame. They shall be fixed in a horizontal plane.

#### Putlogs.

20E. (i) One putlog shall be placed at each side of each vertical, except at the verticals at the end of the scaffolding where one only may be used.

(ii) Putlogs shall be positioned not more than nine (9) inches from a vertical, measured centre line of vertical to centre line of putlog.

The maximum span of a putlog shall not exceed five (5) feet, measured centre to centre of supports. Where one end of a putlog is supported by a wall or other part of a structure, such end shall be positively secured to the wall or structure and, in this case, the span shall be considered as the distance between the face of the wall and the centre line of the ledger supporting the other end.

(iii) Putlogs shall not be placed in positions other than those mentioned in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above.

Putlogs shall be set horizontally and above the ledgers. The top surface of each putlog shall be in a plane parallel to the ledgers.

Putlogs shall provide true and even support to the scaffold platform planks.

A joint shall not be made in the span of a putlog.

#### Scaffolding Platforms.

20F. Platform planks shall be not less than nine (9) inches in width, nor less than one and a half ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) inches thick if of oregon timber, or one and a quarter ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ ) inches thick if of karri timber; finished sizes.

Planks shall be closely laid over the full width of the frame and shall lap at ends not less than nine (9) inches.

#### Fenders (Toe Boards) and Guard Rails (Hand Rails).

20G. Fenders and guard rails shall be securely fixed to the verticals at the edges and ends of all scaffolding platforms.

Fenders to effectively prevent materials, tools or other objects falling from a platform shall extend to a height of not less than nine (9) inches above the surface of a platform and, if of timber, shall be not less than one and a quarter ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ ) inches thick; if made of metal they shall be at least of equal stiffness as if of timber.

Guard rails shall be fixed at a height of thirty-six (36) inches above the surface at the edges of platforms. They shall be of mild steel round pipe one and twenty-nine thirty-seconds ( $1\frac{29}{32}$ ) of an inch outside diameter, of wall thickness of not less than No. 9 British Imperial standard wire gauge (one and a half ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) inch bore).

#### Bracing.

20H. Scaffolding shall be securely and effectively braced in all directions to form a rigid structure capable of maintaining a wide margin of stability under all possible conditions. Braces

shall be of mild steel scaffold tubes as specified in regulation 20C of this Part;

(h) by inserting in Part III. after regulation 2I a new sub-heading as follows:—

“Examination for License as Scaffolder”  
and a new regulation 21A thereunder as follows:—

21A. (1) Every candidate for examination for a license as scaffolder shall prove to the satisfaction of the Chief Inspector by oral examination that he has been engaged in that class of work and that he has a sufficient knowledge of the English language to enable him to speak such language intelligibly and that he possesses a sound knowledge of the Act and the regulations.

In addition, every candidate shall perform to the satisfaction of the Chief Inspector such practical test as the Chief Inspector shall prescribe.

(2) Upon proof that any person to whom a license as scaffolder has been issued is responsible for the erection of any scaffolding or gear of a defective nature such license may be cancelled by the Chief Inspector;

(i) by inserting in the schedule to regulation 26 after form A, new forms A1 and A2 as follows:—

Form A1.

INSPECTION OF SCAFFOLDING ACT, 1924-1938.

Notice of intention to apply for a License as Scaffolder to the Chief Inspector of Scaffolding, Perth.

Sir,

I hereby make application for a license as scaffolder. I desire to present myself for examination at.....

The particulars hereunder are provided for your information.

I am,  
Your obedient servant,  
.....

1. Address in full of the applicant.....
2. Place of birth of applicant.....
3. Date of birth.....
4. Length and nature of service, with testimonials.....
5. Name of any person to whom reference may be made, if considered necessary, for verification of above particulars.....



Form A2.

INSPECTION OF SCAFFOLDING ACT, 1924-1938.

License as Scaffolder.

Department of Scaffolding,  
Perth, .....19..

THIS is to certify that.....  
has been licensed as scaffolder under and for the purpose of the above-  
mentioned Act.

.....  
Chief Inspector.

8. The principal Act as amended by this Act may be cited as the Inspection of Scaffolding Act, 1924-1938. Citation of principal Act as amended.

