



VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 06-104

Issued: August 18, 1988
Renumbered: August 15, 2005

SUBJECT: Standard Interpretation of 1926.451(d)(7), Securing Scaffolding to a Building or Structure

A. Purpose.

This revised directive updates outdated references and renumbers this standard interpretation to conform to the revised VOSH program directives' classification and numbering system (See VOSH Program Directive 01-001A).

This directive transmits to field personnel an interpretation received from Federal OSHA concerning the requirements for securing scaffolding to a building or structure "at intervals not to exceed 30 feet horizontally and 26 feet vertically," contained in 1926.451(d)(7).

This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.

B. Scope.

This directive applies VOSH-wide and specifically to Occupational Safety Compliance and Cooperative Programs personnel.

C. Action.

Directors and Managers shall ensure that VOSH field personnel understand the interpretive guidance for §1926.451 (d)(7) provided by federal OSHA.

D. Cancellation.

VOSH Program Directive 12-014 (August 18, 1988).

E. Background.

See attached letter dated September 8, 1987, requesting an official standards interpretation of §1926.451(d)(7). This interpretation was supplied to VOSH Regional Supervisors by letter dated October 7, 1987. This directive officially adopts the interpretation.

C. Ray Davenport
Commissioner

ATTACHMENTS:

Federal OSHA Interpretation of §1926.451(d)(7), received by VOSH on October 5, 1987.

VOSH Follow-up Request for Interpretation of §1926.451(d)(7) Dated September 8, 1987.

DISTRIBUTION: Commissioner of Labor and Industry
Assistant Commissioner -- Programs
Directors and Managers
VOSH Compliance Staff
Cooperative Programs Staff
Legal Support Staff
OSHA Regional Administrator, Region III
OSHA Area Office, Norfolk

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
3535 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Reply to the Attention of: Technical Support



SEP 28 1987

Charles E. Harrigan, VOSH Assistant Commissioner
Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Labor and Industry
205 North Fourth Street
P.O. Box 12064
Richmond, Virginia 23241

Attention: Jay Withrow, VOSH Technical Services Director

Dear Mr. Harrigan:

This is in response to your written inquiry of September 8, 1987 which requested a second interpretation of 29 CFR 1926.451(d)(7) and also the status of a previous request for interpretation of 29 CFR 1926.652(c) dated June 3, 1987.

You stated that a second interpretation of 29 CFR 1926.451(d)(7) was needed because our first response was based on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - Safety Standards for Scaffolds Used in the Construction Industry dated November 25, 1986 and not on the existing standard.

We have been advised by our National Office of Construction and Maritime Compliance Assistance that the "four to one" rule should be applied to the existing standard 29 CFR 1926.451(d)(7), i.e. supported scaffolds with a height to base width ratio of more than four to one shall be secured to the building or structure. This interpretation follows from the requirement for manually propelled mobile scaffolds in 29 CFR 1926.451(e)(1) which obviously does not specify a securing provision. If the height to base width ratio is less than four to one, securing is not required either horizontally or vertically.


When securing is required, the standard 29 CFR 1926.451(d)(7) specifies that the scaffold be secured at maximum intervals of 26 feet vertically and 30 feet horizontally. This is interpreted to mean that given a height to base width ratio which exceeds four to one, securing at the maximum intervals above must be provided both horizontally and vertically. If the dimensions of the scaffold are such that the 26 feet vertical and 30 feet horizontal maximum intervals cannot be met then intervals less than 26 feet and 30 feet respectively must be selected. In any case, scaffolds in this category must be secured at a minimum of 2 locations both horizontally and vertically.



A response to your request for interpretation of 29 CFR 1926.652(c) is expected from the OSHA National Office shortly. It is currently being reviewed by the office of safety compliance. Should you have any questions on this response please contact Bill Thomas of my staff in the Technical Support Group of this office.

Thank you for your interest in occupational safety.

Sincerely,


LINDA R. ANKU
Regional Administrator

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Labor and Industry
205 North Fourth Street
P. O. Box 12064
Richmond, Virginia 23241

copy

September 8, 1987

Mrs. Linda R. Anku
Regional Administrator
U. S. Department of Labor - OSHA
3535 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

ATTENTION: Bill Thomas
Technical Support Group

Dear Mrs. Anku:

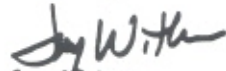
In June, 1987 I sent requests for standards interpretations of 1926.451(d)(7) and 1926.652(c) (copies of both requests are attached). Although I received a prompt response regarding 1926.451(d)(7), I have been informed by my Regional Supervisors that the interpretation provided is of no use from an enforcement standpoint because the interpretation addresses requirements of the new proposed standard on scaffolding which is not enforceable at this time. The interpretation provided is helpful from a voluntary compliance standpoint but is of no use when you are trying to settle a violation of the present standard.

I would appreciate it very much if you could provide an interpretation of the enforceability of the present standard, 1926.451(d)(7), in accordance with my original request.

In addition, I would like to request an update on the progress in addressing my request for interpretation of 1926.652(c).

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,



Jay Withrow
VOSH Technical Services Director

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Attachments