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TAKE A BREAK

By Cathee Johnson Phillips

As this issue went to press during the first week of July, the number of new COVID-19 cases were growing more rapidly than ever, with more than 100,000 new cases reported each day across the world. U.S. cases numbered more than 2.6 million and were on the rise in California, Florida, Texas, and other states. Many medical experts were stating that wearing masks or face coverings was the single most important way to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

The impact of the pandemic on the scaffold and access industry will not be fully known for several months – perhaps years. Everyone, from the CEO to the worker erecting the scaffold, has had to adapt to the situation. Most likely, they have had to make decisions that have an impact beyond the moment, without having all of the information they would like. Do they have to furlough workers now to keep jobs intact tomorrow? Will employees be less likely to catch the virus if they work in the same small group throughout a project? How long can we postpone this job without losing it? How can we cut costs? How can we provide training safely?

Everyone, from the CEO to the worker erecting the scaffold, has had to adapt to the COVID-19 environment. They have most likely had to make decisions that have an impact beyond the moment, without having all of the information they would like.

This issue offers articles that may help with some of the difficult decision-making. I invite you to turn to page 12 to read the Business Bites column on insurance and risk management strategies; then flip to the back of the magazine, page 38, for information about the Payroll Protection Program and loan forgiveness.

Jim Holcomb, president of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA), offers encouraging words for this time on page 8. Take your mind off the coronavirus – and the decisions you’re facing – by reading the cover story and the articles about challenging projects. The International Council offers a thought-provoking article about global construction statistics, and Dave Glabe, P.E., provides answers to supported scaffolding questions you didn’t know you needed to ask in his Technically Speaking column. Learn how SAIA member StepUp Scaffold received exemption from Chinese tariffs in the Industry News section. Enjoy. Take a break.

We at the SA Magazine hope you find inspiration and practical tips that ease your mind – if only for a few minutes. Please don’t hesitate to contact us and let us know about your company’s challenges and successes. Many thanks to all who provided articles and columns for this issue!

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Dear friends,

It’s a pretty safe bet that, when the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) 2015-2024 Strategic Plan was developed, no one envisioned that a global pandemic would be one of the challenges our industry would face. Halfway through the plan, that’s exactly where we are.

The strategic plan reflected the association’s commitment to “do more” to promote safe practices. We have not wavered from this commitment. During this time, the SAIA leadership, volunteers, and staff have worked together to do all that is possible to continue to promote safe practices. We are adapting to the pandemic environment and moving forward.

The new suite of A92 standards is currently being distributed. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Board of Standards Review (BSR) approved the revised A92 Standards in May, and the new mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) standards became effective on June 1.

June also kicked off the SAIA’s new 2019 Project Award Webinar Series with Wire Rope Terminations. If you missed it, the presentation is available online. Go to the website, click on Meetings & Events and then on Educational Webinars for the link to this video, as well as dates and registration for the new series.

The election of directors for the association’s five even regions is coming up. Each region votes for its representative on the Board of Directors. The self-nomination ballot will close on July 25, and voting will begin on July 29.

The Executive Committee has moved forward with budget planning and held a virtual workshop to do so. We look forward to reporting back to the membership at the 2020 Annual Convention Membership Meeting.

Speaking of the convention, we are keeping a close eye on Phoenix, Arizona, and the COVID-19 rates as the September dates for the convention get closer. For now, it’s business as usual, but safety is our top priority. Be sure to check the website often for updates.

The year 2020 has been challenging for everyone. Many thanks to all of you who continue to find the time and energy to promote safety in our industry. Onward!

Stay safe,

Jim

We are keeping a close eye on Phoenix, Arizona, and the COVID-19 rates as the September dates for the convention get closer. For now, it’s business as usual, but safety is our top priority. Be sure to check the website often for updates.
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A survey should be conducted to see how many people know what a supported scaffold is – I suspect there are a lot of folks who don’t know. A quick internet search yields a definition for the word support: “give assistance to, especially financially; enable to function or act.” That fits nicely with the business of scaffolding, particularly the financial part, doesn’t it? Maybe not. In addition to determining what a supported scaffold is, other questions involving this type of scaffold are frequently asked. So, here are a few questions and answers on the subject:

What is a supported scaffold? There are two basic types of scaffolds, supported and suspended. By definition, a supported scaffold “means one or more platforms supported by outrigger beams, brackets, poles, legs, uprights, posts, frames, or similar rigid support.”

Can I assume then that any hanging scaffold is a suspended scaffold? No. By definition, a suspended scaffold is a platform supported by “non-rigid means.” Therefore, for example, if you have a platform supported by rigid tubes that are supported by an overhead structure, the scaffold would still be a supported scaffold. This scaffold example would be known as a hanging or hung scaffold.

What are examples of supported scaffolds? Tubular welded-frame scaffold, commonly referred to as frame and brace, is one easily recognizable supported scaffold. System scaffold is another. In fact, there are many different types of supported scaffolds; The U.S. federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) lists 16, but there are more than that.

If I stand on a 2-by-10 wood plank spanning between and supported by two piles of concrete block, is that a supported scaffold? Yes.

Really? Yes.

Do the OSHA regulations apply? Of course. Why wouldn’t they?

How high can I build a supported scaffold? It depends on the strength of the scaffold and how it is constructed. The regulations and standards require that certain types of supported scaffolds over 125 feet high be designed by a qualified registered professional engineer. (But that doesn’t answer your question, does it?)

Why are the common scaffolds, such as frame and system scaffolds, constructed of round tube? The original reason is probably lost to history, but, from an engineering standpoint, a round tube is equally strong in all directions compared to a rectangular or square shape.

What is the typical leg-tube diameter? Tube diameter on small utility scaffolds can be as little as 1 inch and can be 2-3/8 inches or more on robust scaffolds. Tube and coupler scaffolds and system scaffolds usually have a tube diameter of 1.9 inches.

OSHA requires that supported scaffolds be tied to an existing structure for stability. Is this necessary? Not if the scaffold is of sufficient width. Usually, if a scaffold height is not more than four times the minimum width (three times in California), the scaffold is considered stable.

In practice, scaffolds are commonly placed on 2-by-10 scaffold-grade timber members that are 12 to 24 inches long. Since they normally work, it has become accepted practice for the common, run-of-the-mill scaffolds and is usually never questioned. It’s only after a collapse that the sills become suspect, which of course is a little too late.
What should I use to tie the scaffold to the structure? You can use Grandma’s clothesline, but I doubt it would be of sufficient strength. No. 9 wire is commonly used but, there again, it may not be of sufficient strength. Have a qualified person, one who knows how to calculate the loads on the tie, give you a proper design.

Why do I have to use a base plate under the leg of a supported scaffold? Because.

What if I don’t? At the minimum, you won’t have a safe scaffold. You also might and should be cited by OSHA for a hazardous scaffold.

That sounds serious; what is the purpose of a base plate? The base plate provides a means to secure the scaffold leg to a sill, provides stability, spreads the scaffold leg load, and protects the bottom of the leg.

What is a sill? A sill is usually a wood member that is placed between the base plate and the foundation. Its purpose is to spread the load and provide some friction to aid in stabilizing the scaffold from sliding.

Can I use a scaffold plank as a sill? You can but that would not be the smartest thing to do since you should never use a scaffold plank as part of a platform once it has been used as a sill. You can use a cut-off portion of a scaffold plank, which is commonly done.

How big should the sill be? It depends on the load applied to it and the strength of the foundation.

Are you telling me that all scaffold sills should be engineered? I’m not sure what you mean by “engineered,” but the mandatory regulations require that all sills must be designed by a qualified person. In practice, scaffolds are commonly placed on 2-by-10 scaffold-grade timber members that are 12 to 24 inches long. Since they normally work, it has become accepted practice for the common, run-of-the-mill scaffolds and is usually never questioned. It’s only after a collapse that the sills become suspect, which of course is a little too late.

I noticed that most, if not all, supported scaffolds have bracing. Is bracing important? Absolutely. For example, tubular welded frame scaffolds utilize cross-braces to control the unbraced length of the leg. Limiting the unbraced length is what gives the scaffold its strength.

What is the most common mode of failure for supported scaffolds? Interesting question—do you plan on having your scaffolds collapse? Since properly designed and constructed scaffolds will not collapse, it is assumed that you are talking about poorly designed and inadequately constructed scaffolds. Assuming this assumption, supported scaffolds either fall over or they collapse due to overload. To avoid the uncomfortable situation of scaffold falling over, adequately secure it to an adjacent appropriate structure capable of supporting the loads.

Scaffold collapse is usually a culmination of related factors, including inadequate bracing, poor foundation, poor quality equipment, poorly maintained equipment, and excessive loads.

How do I avoid a supported scaffold collapse? That is an easy question to answer. And the answer is found in the regulations, standards, and the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) Codes of Safe Practice. Make sure the scaffold is designed by a qualified person and that it is erected under the supervision of a competent person qualified in scaffold erection, use trained and experienced erectors, inspect the scaffold before each work shift, and make sure that the scaffold users are trained in the proper use of scaffolds, including the importance of not modifying the scaffold.

Is there anything else I should know? Probably. Do you remember your mother’s and spouse’s birthday? They will be affected the most if you are killed due to a poorly designed and erected supported scaffold.

About the Author
David H. Glabe, P.E., is President of Glabe Consulting Services Inc. and Founder of DH Glabe and Associates. Glabe is SAIA’s Regulatory Liaison. Contact him at dhg@glabeconsulting.com.

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The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has been severe for many scaffold and access companies. Many companies have had their jobs delayed or cancelled as many construction projects have been put on hold. Controlling insurance costs and implementing risk management strategies are important during this time.

Control Insurance Costs
If your business has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, and you are looking to manage insurance spend, a first step is to review your exposures. Insurance exposures, such as sales and payrolls, are measured by insurance carriers to help determine your premiums.

Sales/Payrolls: Your company’s sales and payroll values are used to determine the costs of many insurance policies, including Workers’ Compensation and General Liability insurance policies. Premiums for these policies are set at renewal based on an estimate of payrolls and sales for the next year. Insurance companies perform an audit at the end of the policy period to ensure they collect enough premium to cover your risk, or potentially to return premium to the company if the payroll and sales have been over-estimated. On policies that are not subject to minimum earned premium provisions, most carriers permit mid-term adjustments to sales or payroll estimates in addition to audits at the end of the policy period. Since the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted many scaffold and access businesses, a mid-term adjustment to correct payrolls and sales could lead to immediate savings on insurance premiums.

Workers’ Compensation
Class Codes: A significant factor in determining the cost of Workers’ Compensation insurance is the classification codes of employees. Classification codes are assigned by the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) or each state’s Board to differentiate between the exposures of various job duties. Generally, positions that are considered lower-risk, such as clerical work, are assigned a lower rate than higher-risk positions, such as a scaffold erector. Since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, some employees have had their duties altered in a way that could change their class code into a lower-rated category. For example, if you have field employees that you have retained on your payroll but reassigned to desk duties, you might be able to assign a lower-rated class code for the duration of the altered work. Additionally, the NCCI has created a class code for employees who are furloughed. While not all carriers or states are permitting these changes, companies should keep detailed records to account for changes in duties and to discuss your options with your insurance advisor.

Commercial Automobile: With insureds driving less due to the pandemic, some commercial automobile insurance carriers are offering refunds or credits for a portion of their customers’ premiums. Work with your insurance advisor to see if this is an option for your company.

Minimum Earned Premium: Most general liability policies for scaffold and access companies include a “minimum earned premium” provision. A minimum earned premium is the smallest amount of premium an insurance carrier is willing to accept to write an insurance policy. If you cancel an insurance policy before the policy term is over, or if you overestimate your exposures, the minimum earned premium provision limits any potential refund. Generally, the minimum earned premium cannot be changed mid-term. At renewal, however, your insurance advisor may work with your carrier to negotiate a lower minimum earned premium percentage, in order to account for uncertainty in your estimates.

Implement Risk Management Strategies
During this time of reduced work for many scaffold and access companies, your company has an opportunity to invest in long-term risk management. Additionally, there are certain risks that deserve extra attention during this time.

Safety Training: Now is an ideal time to have employees complete Occupational
Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) courses and other safety training. While projects are slower, employees may have time to focus on completing the OSHA 10-hour or 30-hour courses. The OSHA certification cards for these courses are generally good for five years. Having safety training completed during this time is beneficial to help drive down future insurance costs and help with your risk management. In fact, many jobs require a certain number of workers to have completed the 30-hour course. Having more employees who have completed OSHA courses is a positive differentiator in a competitive market.

Loss Prevention: This can be a good time to focus management attention on implementing loss prevention (or loss control) recommendations. Insurance carriers often send loss prevention specialists to clients to review risks and provide advice to help control losses. Common loss control recommendations include changes to the employee safety handbook, building safety recommendations like handrails, and updates to safety equipment. Using this downtime to implement these recommendations can help control future losses and reduce your insurance premiums or ensure your continued insurability. Make sure to keep track of these improvements to document to your insurance carrier.

Employment Practices Liability: With the effects of the pandemic, many scaffold and access organizations are faced with difficult employment decisions, including layoffs and furloughs. When making these decisions, managers need to consider possible repercussions since all normal employment laws still apply. You should consult with an attorney or human resources advisor before making any layoffs, furloughs, or other employment changes. If you carry employment practices liability insurance, you should consult with your insurance advisor about resources that your carrier may provide to help in these decisions. Additionally, if you have an employee with a confirmed case of COVID-19, it is important to notify your insurance advisor.

Use a Qualified Advisor
These insurance savings and risk management strategies can potentially have a considerable positive impact on your business. To properly implement these strategies, it is vital to work with an insurance and risk management advisor who understands the scaffold and access market and your unique business needs.

About the Authors
Matthew Dennett is a Vice President with RBN Insurance Services specializing in scaffold and access companies. Blair Koorsen is the Business Development Manager at RBN Insurance Services. Contact them at mdennett@rbninsurance.com and bkoorsen@rbninsurance.com.
"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was so glad to be a part of it."

Pat McAndrew, Superior Scaffold estimator.
t’s not every day that a company gets a call to construct a ramp to move one of the world’s rarest objects 250 feet to its new exhibit location. And, it’s even rarer when that 25,000-pound statue has to be taken outside, through a window, across a courtyard, and then back in through another window.

Superior Scaffold Services provided the intricate scaffolding ramp at the Penn Museum to get the priceless, 3,000-year-old, 25,000-pound Sphinx of Ramses II to its new location 250 feet away. The Sphinx is a lion with a human head and represents the power of the Egyptian king. It is carved out of a single block of red granite.

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology trusted Superior Scaffold to move the Sphinx because the company had previously provided scaffolding services for restoration crews to dismantle two giant 16-foot-tall 14th and 15th century Chinese Buddhist wall murals.

Alternate Design Solutions provided the engineering for the relocation. Based on the weight and dimensions of the Sphinx, they used soil-compression test measurements to calculate the size and weight of the platform/ramp needed to make the move.
The Scaffolding

The relocation of the Sphinx presented several challenges for the Superior team. Each piece of scaffold equipment had to be walked in because there was very little access to the courtyard. The crew also had to shore up the floor inside beneath the giant Sphinx with hi-load frames and post shores, just as a security measure, in preparation for the move to the exit ramp. Crews removed a large window and then widened the wall a bit so the Sphinx would fit through the opening.
They then built an exit ramp out of system scaffold in order to elevate the Sphinx enough to get it through the window.

The outside ramp was constructed using hi-load shoring frames to hold the weight of the stone beast. The team started with wood sills on the entire run over the dirt/grass followed by steel beams and then a variety of hi-load shoring frames down the entire 250-foot run. Those frames had U-heads and steel beams crossed with aluminum beams, which were then topped with solid plank and then 3/4-inch plywood. The plywood was then covered by a special surface that would help the air dollies float beneath the Sphinx. The team also installed an elaborate maze of guardrails and stanchions along the
entire route. It took some creative layout to position the shoring frames around several pipes at the back end of the ramp. The final step in preparing access was to build another deck or loading platform out of system scaffold on the inside at the other end of the long ramp to receive the giant stone carving. Another window was removed to get the Sphinx into its new resting place.

The Move
The Sphinx was first hoisted onto the ramp using a hydraulic lift and placed onto four air dollies that used compressed air and essentially floated it off the ground allowing crews to push it the entire distance. This was the first time that the Sphinx had seen light since it was moved into the museum back in 1926, when the gallery was built around it. The red
granite, or stone of kings, as it was
called, sparkled in the sunlight. The
Sphinx moved at a slow pace while
hundreds of spectators watched the
event. The move required four to eight
people to move the behemoth along
the route.

Once it reached the other side
of the courtyard, there was only 1.5
inches of clearance on either side of
the new opening for the stone statue
to slide in between onto the second
loading platform. As a precaution,
Superior shored up the floor beneath
the entry point as well - using 20-kip
shores. Penn Museum had a new
floor designed and placed just to
accommodate the weight of the
ancient object in its new display. A
hydraulic lift removed the Sphinx
from the platform and onto the
concrete where it would be moved
to its final resting spot. The entire
relocation went off as planned, and
it was truly a once in a lifetime
opportunity.

About the Author
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SAFETY LESSONS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

THE SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SAIA) INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL IS COMPARING FATALITY RATINGS IN THE UNITED STATES WITH RATINGS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN HOPES OF GATHERING INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP TO REDUCE THE U.S. CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FATALITY RATING.

BY SAM REESE
Every year in the United States, around 5,000 people lose their lives in an occupational fatality, and, of those fatalities, 1,000, on average, occur in the construction industry. Though the specific causes for these fatalities vary from organization to organization, one thing is clear: There is work to be done to mitigate occupational deaths. As a start, the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) International Council has begun to compare the United States’ fatality ratings with those in other countries; the goals of this research are to study best practices, consider obstacles, and ultimately help contribute to reducing the U.S. fatality rating in the construction industry.

**Historical Context**

When the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was established in 1970, there was an estimated 14,000 occupational fatalities a year. Though fatality ratings have since reduced by almost two-thirds of this number, currently, both overall occupational fatalities and construction fatalities have remained somewhat consistent. The only significant fluctuation of fatalities since the major decline seems to be attributable to economic activity. As economic activity decreased after the 2007 financial crisis began, so did the fatality rates. Conversely, as the economy activity began to increase in 2013, so too did those fatality rates. Conversely, decreased after the 2007 financial crisis economic activity. As economic activity decline seems to be attributable to fluctuation of fatalities since the major consistent. The only significant fatalities have remained somewhat this number, currently, both overall fatalities, 1,000, on average, occur in the construction industry.

### Challenges of Comparing Data

So how does the U.S. construction industry fatality rating compare with the rest of the world? The main source of comparative information comes from the International Labour Organization (ILO) labour statistics database. The ILO was established in 1919 by unions in the U.S. and became a U.N. agency in 1946. The ILO goal is to “bring together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labor standards, develop policies, and devise programs promoting decent work for all women and men.”

There are many challenges to comparing the data among so many countries. Data sources, fatality categorization, and timing of the fatalities are just a few. First, the data sources vary from one country to the other. Countries like the U.S. and the U.K. have central federal agencies that collect information on fatalities, such as OSHA and the Department of Labor or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), respectively. Other countries that do not have strong federal agencies rely on less reliable information like insurance claims. Secondly, the criteria used to determine what constitutes a construction fatality also varies. Some countries, for example, categorize a commuting death to a job site as a construction fatality, while others do not. Lastly, the time that has lapsed when an initial injury occurs on the job site to the time the fatality occurs determines if it is attributable to the original construction accident, and this determination also varies from country to country. Perhaps the most significant challenge for comparing fatality ratings between countries is based on which industrial classification is being used. The International System of the Industrial Classification (ISIC) was established in 1948, and there have been four revisions since its establishment. These revisions come about as new industries are created and the classification of different industries have become more defined. An example of how the construction industry’s classification has changed between the third and fourth revisions can be seen in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISIC-REV 3 Construction</th>
<th>ISIC-REV 4 Construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Preparation</td>
<td>Construction of Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building of Complete Construction or Parts Thereof; Civil Engineering</td>
<td>Construction of Other Civil Engineering Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Installation</td>
<td>Construction of Utility Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Completion</td>
<td>Electrical, Plumbing, and Other Construction Installation Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renting of Construction and Demolition Equipment with Operator</td>
<td>Building Completion and Finishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Specialized Construction Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Comparison of Revisions of International Standards of Industrial Classification
Figure 3 shows how using a different classification in the same country’s data can have an impact on their ratings. The U.K. fatality ratings lowered significantly between the time they used the broader ISIC Rev 3.1 and the narrower ISIC Rev 4, which they adopted around 2009.

Regardless of the aforementioned challenges, there is still pertinent information on fatalities that can be gathered. In comparing data only from countries using ISIC Rev 4 data, it is clear that the U.S. falls behind in construction safety compared to other industrialized nations (see Figure 4).

It is worth noting that the Russian Federation data is highly problematic. Figure 5 shows that when the Russian Federation transitioned from ISIC Rev 3.1 to REV 4 in 2017, the steep decline in the fatality rating was highly improbable. This provides another reason why a scrutinized look at fatality data is necessary.

Comparison of U.S. and Other Industrial Nations Construction Fatalities

The EU as a whole, as well as Japan, and the United Kingdom in particular, clearly show a fatality rating far better than the U.S. What are these countries doing more effectively?

The U.K.’s more stringent regulations, for example, require a scaffold contractor to provide a risk assessment for even the most basic residential scaffold. In addition to requiring more stringent regulations, the enforcement of these regulations impacts fatalities. Figure 6 shows the correlation between overall occupational fatality ratings versus inspectors per 100,000 employees. There is some correlation between a higher rate of inspectors and a lower rate of fatalities overall, such as in the case of Germany, although the U.K. seems to have fewer regulators and lower rates. Are there other factors that might be contributing to a lower fatality rating, such as the percentage of companies in the industry that are members of a national organization versus independent, nonaligned players? Or the ratio of immigrant versus non-immigrant labor? Are there any cultural differences among countries that should be considered?

The International Council will continue to ask these and other questions and conduct research to ascertain solutions that could reduce fatalities. If the U.S. construction industry fatality rate of 14.4 fatalities per 100,000 workers can be reduced to the U.K.’s best-in-class rate of 2.2 fatalities per 100,000 workers, that would be over 850 lives saved yearly. That is quite a significant and consequential achievement.

About the Author

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PARTNERSHIP APPROACH BENEFITS DUBLIN CATHEDRAL

A year of planning was required to provide safe and efficient access for roof repairs on St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

BY SEAN PIKE
late roof repairs on the 800-year-old St Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin have called for a scaffold and weather protection system that takes full account of the historic importance of the building. Ireland’s oldest church, which dates back to 1220, is currently replacing 19th century roof slates and is benefitting from the combined scaffolding expertise of Ainscough Scaffolding – working for main contractor Clancy Construction – and the performance of Layher Ltd.’s Allround scaffolding and lightweight roof systems.

After a year in the planning, the installation above the nave features scaffolds on either side of the cathedral to support a series of multiple beam clusters from which further scaffolding then rises to the temporary roof. Simon Ainscough, director at Ainscough, commented on issues that have had to be addressed at the site and said, “As so often with buildings of this type, the key factors that we have to accommodate are restrictions on tying-in to the fabric and both the movement and positioning of equipment through often tight spaces and alongside very valuable and irreplaceable structures and artifacts.”

By way of example, he pointed out that the celebrated organ alone is valued at some 2 million pounds (over US$2.5 million).

Innovative Support Structure

At the heart of the installation, Layher’s, Ainscough’s, and Clancy’s design teams have developed a highly innovative scaffold and beam support structure to address the fact that tying-in was not possible.

“We created clusters, each of 11 beams, which were clamped to the walls before extending some eight meters [26 feet] externally through 14 windows along both sides of the building,” Ainscough said. “These were then fixed to the external support scaffolds to provide a base from which further structural elements rise to support the temporary roof.”

The design effectively bridges – and,
therefore, avoids loading onto – lower roof areas which run alongside the nave while also helping to ensure an important door-access area remains open. At the same time, the external support scaffold, which extends down to ground level, provides the structure for the installation of a material loading bay and access stair system.

“The temporary roof itself features our Keder XL lightweight design that could be built to reach fully over the apex of the building without further support,” says Sean Pike, Layher Ireland’s managing director. A total roof span of some 18 meters (about 60 feet) was achieved.

The bay-by-bay construction of the temporary roof structure has meant that the limitation of only having one crane on site was sufficient for the installation. “We could only lift from one end of the cathedral,
and so we built rails onto the top of the support scaffold upon which the mobile roof system wheels were then located,” said Ainscough. “As each bay was craned into position and sheeted, it was then rolled along and fixed to create space for the following frame.”

The roof sheets were then pulled into position through the integrated roof-beam top chord tracks. The whole scaffold and roof installation was completed in just four months by 14 scaffolders including, significantly, five apprentices.

**Designed for Efficiency**

With fireproof steel decking throughout and cross-bracing only required on the top lift as part of the means of securing the roof structure to the scaffold – which allows clear walkways for the movement of both workers and materials – the scaffold system brings clear gains to such an important and iconic structure. The simplification of handling even helped the unloading of materials at site, which had to be undertaken during the night to avoid traffic restrictions in the city centre location.

“This is a major project in every sense – not just because of its importance and specific structural characteristics but also the amount of scaffolding and roof system material that has been used,” said Ainscough.

Some 4.5 km (2.8 miles) of ledgers, 1.8 km (1.1 miles) of beams, and 3.4 km (2.1 miles) of standards have all been deployed for what is only the first phase of the roof refurbishment program. Now that the new roof over the nave is complete, using slate from the same quarry that supplied the cathedral 150 years ago, attention has moved onto phase two – repairs to the transept roof – with the final phase three to follow.

“The structure provides safe, clear access, creates a naturally-lit working environment for the roofing trades, and impacts as little as possible on the continuing function of St Patrick’s Cathedral below,” said Pike.

**About the Author**

Seán Pike is Managing Director of Layher Ltd, UK. Contact him at sean.pike@layher.co.uk.
INNOVATION + SAFETY = SUCCESS


BY ISRAEL SANCHEZ
On its opening in December 2018, the 85-acre, 1.9-million-square-foot Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado, immediately became the state’s largest combined resort and conference center. The development was expected to attract 450,000 new visitors and contribute more than $273 million new revenue to Colorado’s economy each year. During construction, 10,000 jobs were generated, and 79 subcontractors and an average of 1,300 workers were on the jobsite each day until completion.

The general contractor, Mortensen/WELBRO, sought a bid for scaffolding services from CD Specialty Contractors, located in Denver, because of their experience in erecting scaffolding for large, complex projects. The bid submittal and presentation included 3D renderings and models of the scaffolding design to show that the design would safely and efficiently accommodate the construction activities.

The project included erecting scaffolding and furnishing a detailed execution plan, sequencing plan, and leg-load data so that the general contractor could make sure the soil conditions, building structures, and other physical elements could support the scaffold loading. CD Specialty Contractors also installed all the mechanical insulation for the convention center and part of the hotel. Additional funding was added to the contract when project sequencing events created unique loading conditions that required shoring and special engineered designs to support the intended loads. Additional scope of work for interior theming, exterior sitework, and a pool structure impacted the budget as well.

Challenges
The complex project posed unique scaffolding challenges. The general contractor required that all the scaffolding be erected at once and kept in place until each trade was complete. This would ensure that all contractors, subcontractors, and trades

By the Numbers
- 56 truckloads of scaffolding
- 2.5 million pounds of scaffolding used on this project
- A crew of 12 to 14 to erect the scaffolding
- Erected the complete scaffolding over 14 months as needed and as building progressed
- Total erection and dismantling took place over 20 months
(gutters, windows, gables, roof, stucco, etc.) had access to the entire exterior at any time, minimizing delays and the potential for safety incidents as a result of trades working above each other.

In the midst of a building boom in the Denver area, skilled, trained workers were at a premium, and the general contractor was hard pressed to staff their project with the highly qualified trades people they needed to meet their aggressive timeline and skills requirements. To ensure that CD Specialty Contractors could deliver, the contractor required the submission of manpower-loading projections demonstrating that the company had the requisite craftsmen and resources. Not only did the company have the number of workers needed, they were all highly trained and skilled in timely, efficient completion of complex projects. This enabled the company to meet their timeline while reducing the original commitment of 30 people to a peak of just 24. To keep ahead of other trades working behind the scaffolding crew, CD Specialty Contractors maintained a core level of 12 to 14 people throughout the project.

Innovation
Another challenge was the building's design, which featured a steeply pitched roof of 37 degrees that was intended to mimic those commonly found in mountain cabins and required the scaffolding to be supported along part of the roof's peak. Working with Crimson Engineering, CD Specialty Contractors designed a founding system to support nearly 80 feet of vertical scaffold loading on a 9/12 pitch roof. This innovative bracket may have been the first and perhaps only one of its kind and allowed substantial construction to proceed underneath this area that otherwise would have been postponed as a result of shoring requirements. The scaffold performed without a single safety incident over the entire 14 months it was in use, while yielding efficiencies that contributed to the successful completion of the overall project.

Safety
CD Specialty Contractors assigns a competent or qualified worker to every job, and, as required by OSHA, all employees receive thorough safety training by a certified trainer. Each employee is required to complete all 31 training courses in the company's in-house safety program.

For this project, all scaffolds were inspected, and safety tags were signed off daily, which became a full-time job once scaffold was fully erected on 90% of the building. All entries and walkways had overhead coverings to allow subcontractors and workers to safely access the building, and safety netting was installed to prevent debris or tools falling on workers below.

Quality Control
CD Specialty Contractors leadership is strongly committed to a formal quality control plan for all projects, and this one was no exception. The company engaged an independent auditor to conduct regular site safety audits. Multiple audits yielded zero problem areas, and Mortensen-WELBRO at one point declared CD Specialty Contractors “the safest contractor on the project.”

The scaffolding project began in April 2017 and was successfully completed two months early in October 2018.

About the Author
Israel Sanchez, Vice President of Operations for CD Specialty Contractors, can be reached at (303) 287-3333 or via email at isanchez@cdspecialtycontractors.com.
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COME TOGETHER

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SAIA) 2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION, CURRENTLY SLATED TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 14-17 IN DOWNTOWN PHOENIX.

BY CATHEE JOHNSON PHILLIPS

COVID-19 Alert: Check the SAIA website often for any new developments with this meeting due to the pandemic.
Come together with scaffold and access professionals from across the United States and the world at the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) 2020 Annual Convention & Exposition, currently slated to be held September 14-17 in downtown Phoenix. During these uncertain times, the event will provide a safe place to discuss lessons learned and next steps for the industry.

Safety is First
As always, the SAIA is committed to the safety of its members and friends and will communicate proactively about the status of the meeting in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SAIA website will be updated regularly with any new developments.

Begin with Training
The week will begin with world-class training from the SAIA University, including a Train the Trainer Facilitator Skills Workshop and Competent Person Training (CPT) for Frame, Suspended, and System Scaffold. Train the Trainer is designed specifically for the scaffold industry and teaches the basic ideas about training and adult learning skills. The workshop lets students practice their presentation skills and try new techniques within the safe environment of a group setting. CPT courses cover the basics of the three major supported scaffold systems, including safety aspects regarding scaffold foundations, scaffold components, regulations, guardrail requirements, fall protection, scaffold stabilization, and erecting and dismantling procedures for scaffolds that exceed the height-to-base ratio. CPT designations are good for a three-year period and can be renewed by attending a course.

Participate in Relevant Sessions
Attending the 2020 Annual Convention
& Exposition is one of the few opportunities for industry professionals to meet face-to-face with their peers and brainstorm new and innovative ideas to promote the safety of the workforce. The meeting will allow plenty of time to build strong social connections that lead to fostering strong business relationships.

The training facilitators and session speakers and presenters are all experts in their fields, and the convention presentations are some of the best in the business. Attendees will hear about emerging trends, updated practices and safety standards, and new marketplace introductions. As in 2019, the SAA will again be offering general sessions featuring topics relevant to today’s market.

General Session Highlights
Who Are Your Ambassadors?
By Corinne Dutil, Fraco
Think marketing and social media doesn’t work for a scaffolding company? Think again. Discover a company’s best asset: the humans working with you and how to make them shine. During this session, attendees will gain a better understanding of the importance of humans, certainly for marketing, but mostly for the team and the pride of the company.

The State of the Scaffold Insurance Market
By Cameron Boots, Allied Insurance Brokers, Inc.
Insurance cost is typically a scaffold company’s largest expense next to payroll. For the first time since 2008, the commercial insurance market is currently entering a “hard market,” especially for construction contractors. For scaffold companies, this means that their cost is increasing 30% to 50% within the general insurance market. This presentation will offer ways to prepare for this market and protect business.

Success in Scaffolding
By Harold Gidish, Sky Climber; John Belmonte, Bee Access Products; and Wendy Larison, Urban Scaffolding
Join this session for a discussion on the evolution of the scaffold industry. How have things changed when it comes to safety, equipment, and the workforce? What does the future hold? Hear the perspective of three long-standing scaffold professionals. Audience participation is encouraged during

The Hotel
The largest hotel in Arizona’s capital city, the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel was newly renovated in 2020. Located in the heart of Phoenix, the hotel provides guests with thoughtful amenities and modern lodging. Talking Stick Resort Arena, Arizona State University, the Mayo Clinic, and Arizona Mills Mall are all nearby. It is also walking distance to a variety of restaurants, bars, and other shopping options.

Getting There
Driving to Phoenix is most likely to follow one of three major freeways, Interstate 10, Interstate 17, and U.S. Route 60. Be sure to search “Driving in Arizona” before the trip to learn about the state’s zero-tolerance policy on driving while under the influence, the ban on the use of cellular devices while operating a motor vehicle, the distracted-driving law, and other driving laws.

Air travel to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is offered by 20 airlines, including American, Delta, Jet Blue, Southwest, United, and others. Ground transportation for the five-mile trip from the airport to the convention hotel is available via taxi and SuperShuttle and other car and shuttle services. Or, try the PHX Sky Train, a driverless people mover that runs from the airport to the convention hotel via the line, adorned with $8 million worth of public art. The artwork at each station reflects the character of the community where it is located.

The Sights
Driving to Phoenix offers so much to explore, including the Frank Lloyd Wright & Taliesin West Foundation, Cosanti Foundation, museums, delicious local cuisine, and fine dining and luxury shopping in Scottsdale. For a more active Phoenix experience, reserve tee time at one of the 200 golf courses in the greater Phoenix area, hike Camelback Mountain, float the Salt River, or take a day trip to Sedona or the Grand Canyon.

Getting Around the Area
Driving a car is one of the easiest ways to get around Phoenix, especially for day trips. For local attractions, consider using the greater Phoenix light-rail system. The cost of an all-day pass is only $4. The 28-mile line links Phoenix to the neighboring communities of Tempe and Mesa and includes stops at attractions such as the Phoenix Art Museum, Heard Museum, Chase Field, Tempe’s Mill Avenue, and others. The air-conditioned trains operate 18 to 22 hours per day, seven days a week, with stops every 12 to 20 minutes. There are 38 stations along the line, adorned with $8 million worth of public art. The artwork at each station reflects the character of the community where it is located.

The Sunshine
In September, average temperatures in Phoenix range from 75 to 100 degrees, and the average humidity in September is only 35.6%. There are only a few days of rain — and that rain totals less than an inch. With 11 to 12 hours of sunlight a day, sightseeing looks favorable! Visit weather-us.com for more weather information.
other general sessions will include the general membership meeting, U.S. vs. international fatalities in construction, competitive excellence, and liability in scaffold rental. the SAIA will also bring back last year’s informative and entertaining 3 engineers walked into a bar question-and-answer session.

exclusive customer forums will provide attendees the opportunity to hear more in-depth information, ask questions, and see slideshow demos about exhibiting companies’ products and services.

various meetings and receptions will round out the agenda, with the popular president’s reception, gala dinner and awards, and after party, sponsored by STVA manufacturing and sales.

explore top-notch exhibitions
the SAIA 2020 annual convention & exposition provides the best opportunity for business owners, buyers, managers, safety professionals, and others in the scaffold and access industry to meet with manufacturers and suppliers, experience their products first-hand, and discover the latest cutting-edge technology and game-changing innovations in the industry. Exhibitors are industry experts, some of whom are seasoned SAIA members. With dedicated show hours, two exhibitor receptions and lunches, and the customer forums, attendees won’t have to choose between a workshop or the expo. they can fully invest their time to develop key connections, find vital resources, and explore cutting edge technologies essential to staying current in today’s competitive business environment.

connect easily
the SAIA convention app takes social connections and meeting participation to the next level. the app supplies all the information needed to make the most of the convention – full schedules, exhibitor and sponsor information, and updates on schedule changes, special offers, and more. attendees can also use the app to connect with other convention attendees before, during, and after the meeting.

questions?
for general information about the meeting or to register to attend the 2020 convention & exposition, visit saiaonline.org. for more information about the exposition, contact Brandi Fox at 816.595.4833 or brandi@saiaonline.org. for more information about the training, contact contact Daphne Reitz at 816.595.4840 or daphne@saiaonline.org.
STEPUP SCAFFOLD GRANTED EXCLUSION FROM TARIFFS

Multiple scaffolding products were granted reprieves.

By Vanita Narine

In September of 2018, Chinese imports were first targeted for tariffs. Sunshine International Corporation doing business as StepUp Scaffolding LLC., is the only scaffolding company granted exclusion on multiple scaffolding products from the $200 Billion Trade Action, bestowed by The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on May 22, 2020.

During an interview, Tracy Dutting-Kane, chief engineer at StepUp Scaffold, said that the company began seeking the exclusions in June 2019. She said, “We put together the most accurate and detailed application that we could and hoped for the best. We believed that our application was strong and had a solid argument for the exclusion.”

The exclusion process took approximately 200 hours of invested time. Dutting-Kane and her coworkers gathered component information, including descriptions, weights, and the justification for the exclusion. Two key points for the justification were the company’s search for other places that could manufacture the volume required to meet customer’s needs and the ways that StepUp scaffolding products stand out from others that are available offshore.

Exclusions Level the Playing Field

Dutting-Kane explained that a granted exclusion for StepUp Scaffold evens the playing field in the scaffolding industry. “The scaffold tariff was only on products imported from China,” she said. “This gave a cost advantage to those who import from countries other than China. Some of the products that are available offshore do not have the high standard of quality that StepUp requires from their Chinese factory, not only from the workmanship aspect but also in the control of the material. In China, it is easy to require a high standard of steel and get...
that produced every time it is ordered. In some other locations, it is simply not possible to ensure that the raw material is continually produced to the agreed-upon standard, and the chemical makeup and strength can vary wildly from batch to batch.”

The StepUp Scaffold team is thankful to their customers for helping them to compile all the pertinent information required by the USTR. Since StepUp Scaffold is not the end user of the scaffold, Dutting-Kane and her team relied on companies like The Brock Group to provide them with statistics on the amount of scaffold that is utilized on current government projects and how the lack of access to StepUp’s scaffolding equipment would impact those contracts.

**Advice for Other Companies**

For applicants denied exclusion, the StepUp Scaffold team advises companies to invest significant time preparing their applications: “Be specific with product descriptions and financial impact due to the lack of access to Chinese imported products. Prove that the volume of the product that is required is not readily available in the U.S. and that sourcing elsewhere could seriously impact the quality of the equipment being imported thus resulting in construction-industry wide safety concerns.”

Dutting-Kane said, “To summarize the process, StepUp Scaffold spent a lot of time on the application and collection of data and hired a good lawyer. We were able to prove that we are an important part of the U.S. market and that our products are significant to the economic wellbeing of the construction industry and the U.S. economy.”

She continued: “At this point, we can only urge other companies to file their own exclusions because the exclusions that were granted were granted on our application, and we did that alone. Since StepUp filed the initial application alone, we must file the extension alone as well, but other companies can, however, reach out to our attorney and file applications through them to support our request as an industry and make the applications stronger.”

According to StepUp Scaffold’s North America LinkedIn Page, in a post published on June 5th, a team of lawyers led by former U.S. Ambassador to Singapore David Adelman successfully demonstrated that StepUp’s scaffolds and platform systems should not be subject to the far-reaching U.S. tariffs on goods imported from China. Adelman, a partner with Reed Smith LLP, specializes in trade matters.

The entire application process is lengthy, attorneys are expensive, and it took the work of several people to complete the application. Dutting-Kane said, “It took a long time to compile the information requested and to put it in the form that was required for the application. We filed our application on the last possible day, right before the USTR deadline. Once you file the application, you wait. “The application must pass four stages for the exclusion to be granted. Most applications did not make it past stage 2. Stage 2 is the initial application review. Stage 3 is where applications are granted once they have been affirmed to have a good case. Stage 4 is when the exclusion is granted. This process took approximately nine months.”

The company plans to move forward with the extension process next and is hoping that it is easier than the original exclusion process.

For more information, find the StepUp Scaffold granted exclusion for both their exemption requests by visiting the USTR Comments Portal, Section 301 – China $200 Billion Tariff Action (List 3) Public Docket Search under HTS Code: 7308400000.

**About the Author**

Vanita Narine is a Marketing Associate at StepUp Scaffold, a Sunshine Enterprise Company. She can be contacted via email at stepupnyc@setupuccaffold.com.

**Contributors**

Tracy Dutting-Kane, Chief Engineer, and Leon Tuo, Supply Chain Manager, at StepUp Scaffold contributed to this article.

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COVID-19: PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS

This article provides information on the updated rules for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness feature.

Provided by Ryan McGovern

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently announced rules required for business owners to make use of the Paycheck Protection Program’s (PPP) loan forgiveness feature. The updated guidance provides both challenges and opportunities for local business owners.

And while the program confirmed many things that were expected, such as the requirement that 75 percent of costs be used for payroll, it also provided some surprises and failed to address several open questions.

Local business owners and lenders alike have been anxiously awaiting these rules. The hope is that these rules will help business owners as they tackle the important things necessary to help save the livelihoods of their businesses, employees, and communities.

Here are some of the key points business owners should be aware of from the latest round of updates:

1. Clarity on taking the loan in "good faith": Smaller loans less than $2 million are given "safe harbor" from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and deemed to meet the good faith standard regardless of having savings or credit elsewhere. For those with larger loans, borrowers will be given the opportunity to document and to show the SBA why they felt they needed the PPP loan.

2. Time period flexibility for payroll: Business owners are now given the option to use an eight-week period that more closely aligns with their payroll cycle as well as leaving open the possibility for including any deferred pay from prior cycles (but, unfortunately, not pay that has already been paid).

3. Exceptions for Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) reductions: The SBA will allow for exceptions in workforce reductions for those who (a) were laid off but refuse to come back to work, (b) were fired with cause, (c) voluntarily resigned, or (d) requested and received a reduction in hours.

4. Expanding the definition of rent and prepayments: The forgiveness application adds broader language that possibly allows lease payments for capital or equipment rentals as well as the ability for borrowers to include rent and utility costs that happen on or before the next regular billing date, even if that date is outside the eight weeks.

5. The forgiveness formula is complicated: Business owners will go through more than a dozen steps, many times on an individual employee basis and comparing several different time periods. Business owners will need to maintain clear documentation for up to six years. Ultimately, the forgiveness amount will be the lesser of (a) the original loan principal amount, (b) payroll costs over the eight weeks divided by 0.75, or (c) a formula that takes the sum of allowable costs spent during the eight weeks and reduces that figure based on reductions in wages or the number of FTEs.

About the Article
This copyrighted article was provided by Ryan McGovern, a partner in The Charles River Group at UBS, which advises a select group of families across the United States. Contact him at r.mcgovern@ubs.com.
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