

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

## Scaffolding

### Part 1: General requirements



## **AS/NZS 1576.1:2010**

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee BD-036, Scaffolding. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 2 October 2009 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 5 March 2010.

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Construction Safety Managers and Officers Association  
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### Part 1: General requirements

Originally published as AS 1576—1974.  
Revised and redesignated in part as AS 1576.1—1991.  
Jointly revised and designated as AS/NZS 1576.1:1995.  
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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 1576.1:1995.

The scaffolding series of Standards comprises the following:

### AS

- 1576 Scaffolding
- 1576.4 Part 4: Suspended scaffolding

### AS/NZS

- 1576 Scaffolding
- 1576.1 Part 1: General requirements (this Standard)
- 1576.2 Part 2: Couplers and accessories
- 1576.3 Part 3: Prefabricated and tube-and-coupler scaffolding
- 1576.5 Part 5: Prefabricated splitheads and trestles
- 1576.6 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 acceptable unified rules for the design and detailing of scaffolding systems using the principles of engineering design as detailed in this Standard.

This edition incorporates all advances made in the scaffolding industry so as to bring all users and designers up to date with the current scaffold systems used in the workplace.

Scaffolding required to also act as roof edge protection is now linked to AS/NZS 4994.1, Loadings.

This edition incorporates the following major changes to the 1995 edition:

- (a) An expanded list of defined terms, including additional definitions qualifying the term ‘bay’.
- (b) An expanded listing of the types of scaffold.
- (c) Inclusion of limit state design principles.
- (d) Expanded design requirements for stair access systems.
- (e) The addition of commentary on some clauses to clarify the intent of those clauses.
- (f) A redefinition of ‘special duty’ category.
- (g) Reference to revised AS/NZS 1170 (all parts).
- (h) Revised edge protection requirements.
- (i) Guidance in the form of flow charts for the design of components and design check of erected scaffold in Appendices B and C respectively.
- (j) The inclusion of void scaffolds.
- (k) A new category—minor scaffolds.
- (l) Requirements for materials and components from AS/NZS 1576.3 are included and expanded upon.
- (m) Requirements for marking and product information are included.
- (n) Changes to bay dimensions relating to duty ratings.
- (o) Trestle ladders are also covered by the Scope.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard 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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**Australian/New Zealand Standard**  
**Scaffolding**  
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**Part 1: General requirements**  
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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 also includes the specifications for catch platforms erected on scaffolds. The stairway details also apply to 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.

**WARNING: THE USE OF STANDARDS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY WHEN IMPORTING SCAFFOLDING EQUIPMENT AND/OR COMPONENTS MAY NOT RESULT IN COMPLIANCE WITH AS/NZS 1576 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 MEETS ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF AS/NZS 1576 SERIES BEFORE REFERENCING SCAFFOLDING EQUIPMENT TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS STANDARD.**

## NOTES:

- 1 For the purposes of this Standard some types of equipment that incorporate temporary working platforms may not be considered to be a scaffold. Examples of these types of equipment may include the following:
  - (a) Equipment covered in other standards, for example—
    - (i) elevating work platforms, AS 1418.10(Int);
    - (ii) mast climbing work platforms, AS 1418.16;
    - (iii) portable ladders, AS/NZS 1892; and
    - (iv) formwork constructed primarily to support concrete, AS/NZS 3610.
  - (b) Stools under 1 m in height which may allow for height adjustment but do not require assembly prior to use.
- 2 Trestle ladders are covered in the AS/NZS 1892 suite of Standards. Upon the review of AS/NZS 1576.5, trestle ladder requirements will be removed from the AS/NZS 1892 suite of Standards and incorporated into AS/NZS 1576.5.

**1.2 NORMATIVE REFERENCES**

The following are the normative documents referenced in this Standard:

NOTE: Document referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS	
1170	Structural design actions
1170.4	Part 4: Earthquake actions in Australia
1391	Metallic materials—Tensile testing at ambient temperature



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