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# SAIA Guidelines on Purchasing Metal and/or Composite (Fabricated) Planks and Decks Excluding Solid Sawn or Engineered Wood Planks and Decks

There are a few considerations that must be made in using this checklist as a tool for making purchasing decisions.

- Ultimately, the purchasing decision comes down to the purchaser. **This list is not intended to be used as a “Pass/Fail”**, but rather to arm plank purchasers with an aid in the decision making process.
- Planks covered in this list are those intended for spans of 10’ or less. For solid sawn wood planks or engineered wood planks, refer to the appropriate SAIA purchasing guidelines.
- Only those items that are listed in **bold** and have an underlined reference are regulated. Other items in this list are based on best known practices within the industry.
- Many of these items have a “Yes” or “No” answer. However, many of them are not as simple as that. Certain quality management systems may have greater merits than others. As such, it is advisable to understand the manufacturer’s quality assurance process rather than just if it exists.
- All items should be checked. Address any unchecked items with the manufacturer or supplier.
- Questions may arise; it is recommended that the buyer contact their manufacturer or the SAIA directly for answers.

## Physical/Mechanical Properties:

- Each plank/scaffold deck shall be capable of supporting the one person loading requirement of 5.1.2.2. ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.1/5.3.1***
- Maximum Spans for fabricated planks shall be as recommended by the manufacturer based on the maximum intended load being calculated under OSHA 1926.451 App. A.  
Metal Planks:
- Each scaffold plank and deck meets the OSHA capacity requirement by following provisions in paragraph 5 of ANSI A10.8-2011 and OSHA 1926.451(a).***
- Metal planks shall not be less than 6 inches wide nor of a length that would allow use on a single span greater than 10’. ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.13***
- Metal planks shall incorporate a slip resistant surface. ANSI A10.8-2011 5.2.14***
- Metal planks may have bearer hooks for attachment.
- Metal planks may have built-in device to prevent lift off, where applicable.

Scaffold Decks:

- Each scaffold deck shall be equipped with bearer hooks that shall permit the deck to rest on and engage the bearer members of the scaffold. [ANSI A10.8-2011 5.3.2](#)**
- The decking surface may optionally be recessed below the top surface of the side rails. ANSI A10.8-2011 5.3.5.

Manufacture:

- Scaffold decks shall be of a tested design. [ANSI A10.8-2011 5.3.8](#)**
- When applicable, corrosion protection shall be applied in the manufacturing process (steel-galvanization).
- Proper welding techniques are used to adhere to maximum strengths.
- Hooks should be of design and material to minimize fatigue.
- The plank is manufactured under a quality management system (e.g. ISO 9001).

Identification:

- Scaffold decks shall be marked and identified by rated working load as specified in 5.1.2.3. [ANSI A10.8-2011 5.3.7](#)**
- Manufacturer is identified on plank.

Literature:

- Plank/decks are designed so that they do not deflect more than 1/60<sup>th</sup> of the span under design load. [OSHA 1926.451 \(f\)\(16\)](#)**
- Tables indicating maximum span are published by the manufacturer consistent with industry-accepted criteria.
- Product name on literature matches product name on plank or deck.
- Literature includes manufacturer recommendations on the following:
  - Proper storage and handling
  - Visual inspection
  - Mechanical evaluation

Manufacturer/Supplier:

- The manufacturer/supplier will supply a certificate of insurance upon request.
- The manufacturer/supplier will supply a certificate of Quality and Production Process control.
- The manufacturer/supplier is an active member in SAIA, Scaffold Shoring Forming Institute and/or other industry trade or professional associations.
- The manufacturer/supplier has ability to respond to technical questions and field problems.

*This checklist was compiled by members of the SAIA Platform Council workgroup~@Scaffold & Access Industry Association*