HARVARD FOREST  
Code of Safe Practices for  
Canopy Access Scaffold Tower Walk Ups  

Based upon standards developed by the Scaffold Industry Association, Inc. (SIA) and the Scaffold, Shoring &  
Forming Institute (SSFI)  

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES - Always exercise caution when going up or down the tower.  

1. **DO NOT ERECT, DISMANTLE OR ALTER A SCAFFOLD** unless under the  
supervision of a competent person (i.e., person trained to do this).  
2. **DO NOT ABUSE OR MISUSE THE SCAFFOLD EQUIPMENT.**  
3. **ERECTED SCAFFOLDS SHOULD BE CONTINUALLY INSPECTED** by users  
to be sure that they are maintained in safe condition. Report any unsafe condition to  
your supervisor and the facilities supervisor.  
4. **NEVER TAKE CHANCES! IF IN DOUBT REGARDING THE SAFETY OR USE OF THE SCAFFOLD, CONSULT THE FACILITIES SUPERVISOR WHO WILL CONTACT THE SCAFFOLD SUPPLIER.**  
5. **NEVER USE THE TOWER FOR PURPOSES OR IN WAYS FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT INTENDED.**  
6. **DO NOT WORK ON SCAFFOLDS** if your physical condition is such that you feel  
dizzy or unsteady in any way.  
7. **DO NOT WORK UNDER THE INFLUENCE** of alcohol or illegal drugs.  
8. Do not overload scaffold. Follow manufacturer’s safe working load  
recommendations.  
9. Do not jump onto planks or platforms. Check each plank prior to use to be sure plank  
is not warped, damaged, or otherwise unsafe.  
10. **DO NOT USE** ladders or makeshift devices to increase the working height of a  
scaffold. Do not place planks on guardrails to increase the height of a scaffold.  
11. Climb in access areas only and use both hands. **Do not climb braces or diagonals.**  

II. SPECIFIC TOWER GUIDELINES  

Hemlock Walk Up Tower  
Dimensions: 71.5’ h x 3’ wide x 5’ long (11 stages of 6.5’ each)  
Manufacturer’s Safe Working Load Recommendations:  

50 LBS PER SQUARE FOOT TO THE MAXIMUM OF 350 LBS ON ANY PART OF THE TOWER.  

EMS Annex Walk Up Tower:  
Dimensions: 78’ h x 3’ wide x 5’ long (12 stages of 6.5’ each)  
Manufacturer’s Safe Working Load Recommendations:  

50 LBS PER SQUARE FOOT TO THE MAXIMUM OF 350 LBS ON ANY PART OF THE TOWER.