

Guidelines for Scaffolding Inspection and Tagging in the Construction Industry



General Guidelines Prior to Use of Scaffolding

Scaffold-related incidents resulting in injuries and fatalities continue to occur despite the fact that OSHA has had a scaffold standard in place since 1971. Although specific accident ratios cannot be projected for the estimated 3.6 million construction workers currently covered. OSHA has prepared the following statistical estimates, based on a review of accident data prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

- Seventy-two percent of the workers injured in scaffold accidents covered by the BLS study attributed the accident either to the planking or support giving way, or to the employee slipping, or being struck by a falling object. Plank slippage was the most commonly cited cause.
- About 70 percent of the workers learned of the safety requirements for

installing work platforms, assembling scaffolds, and inspecting scaffolds through on-the-job training.

Approximately 25 percent had no training in these areas.

- Only 33 percent of scaffolds were equipped with a guardrail

Efficient and proper planning of each job must be done by a competent, qualified person: OSHA 1926.451 (a) (3) no scaffold shall be erected, moved, dismantled or altered except under the supervision of competent persons. The jobsite should be inspected and supervision be familiarized with proper access, proximity of power or process lines, obstructions, ground conditions, openings or pits, strength of supporting structure, interference with other workers, overhead protection,

wind / weather protection and environmental hazards. These conditions must be evaluated and adequately provided for. Also, consider the protection of people who will be passing or working beneath or around scaffold structures. All equipment must be inspected to insure that it is in good condition. Damaged or deteriorated equipment should not be used and must be removed from service.

When planning the job, remember to use common sense, sound judgment and qualified reasoning for the following:

- Provide adequate foundations
- Provide proper access
- Provide proper bracing
- Provide proper handrails and toeboards
- Provide adequate decking materials
- Design scaffold structure on components to adequately compensate the loads to be imposed
- Use only qualified personnel who are in good shape emotionally and physically

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Training requirements:

1. The employer shall have each employee who performs work while on a scaffold trained by a person qualified in the subject matter to recognize the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used and to understand the procedures to control or minimize those hazards. The training shall include the following areas, as applicable:

- (a) The nature of any electrical hazards, fall hazards and falling object hazards in the work area;
- (b) The correct procedures for dealing with electrical hazards and for erecting, maintaining, and disassembling the fall protection systems and falling object protection systems being used;
- (c) The proper use of the scaffold, and the proper handling of materials on the scaffold;
- (d) The maximum intended load and the load-carrying capacities of the scaffolds used; and
- (e) Any other pertinent requirements of this subpart.

2. The employer shall have each employee who is involved in erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining, or inspecting a scaffold trained by a competent person to recognize any hazards associated with the work in question. The training shall include the following topics, as applicable:

- (a) The nature of scaffold hazards;
- (b) The correct procedures for erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, inspecting, and maintaining the type of scaffold in question;



(c) The design criteria, maximum intended load-carrying capacity and intended use of the scaffold;

(d) Any other pertinent requirements of this subpart.

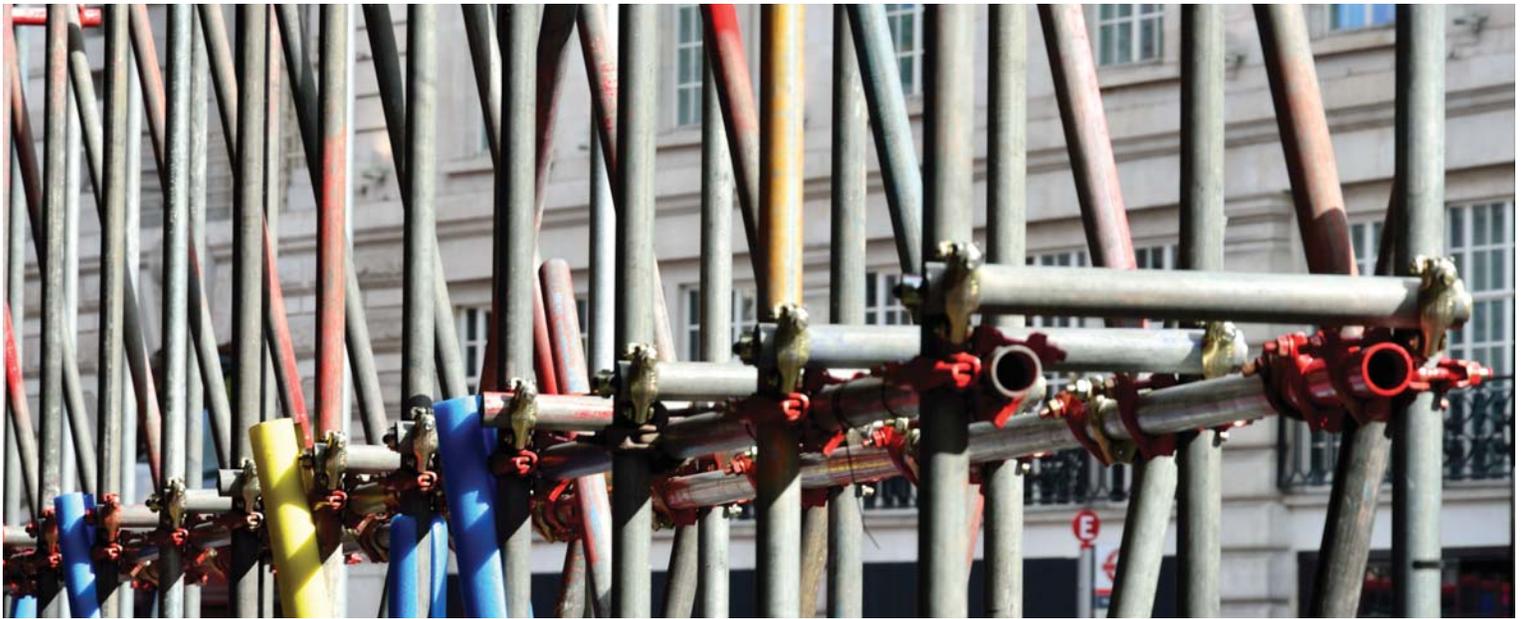
3. When the employer has reason to believe that an employee lacks the skill or understanding needed for safe work involving the erection, use or dismantling of scaffolds, the employer shall retrain each such employee so that the requisite proficiency is regained. Retraining is required in at least the following situations:

- (a) Where changes at the worksite present a hazard about which an employee has not been previously trained; or
- (b) Where changes in the types of scaffolds, fall protection, falling object protection, or other equipment present a hazard about which an employee has not been previously trained; or
- (c) Where inadequacies in an affected employee's work involving scaffolds indicate that the employee has not retained the requisite proficiency.

Certification:

1. The employer shall certify that all employees who are erecting, maintaining and dismantling scaffolds, have been adequately trained in the appropriate precautions and safe practices before they are allowed to perform any such scaffold work.

2. The employer shall certify that the employee has been trained by preparing a certification record which includes the identity of the person trained, the signature of the employer or the person who conducted the training, and the date the training or retraining was completed. The certification record shall be prepared at the completion of training and shall be maintained on file for the duration of the employee's employment. The certification record shall be made available upon request to the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health or designee



Scaffold Tagging and Inspection:

1. Inspection and tagging of the scaffold is to be performed by a competent worker experienced in the erection of scaffold.
2. A unique scaffold identification tag number must be clearly identified on all tags for tracking purposes.
3. All scaffolds shall be inspected after the erection as per the Occupational Health and Safety Act requirements.
4. All scaffold identification tags will be of a solid green, yellow, or red color with black lettering.
5. All scaffold identification tags will have the front information displayed and must be completed for each tag.
 - Date Erected / Tagged
 - Inspected By: Name (print & signature)
 - Inspection Date
 - Department or Group Responsible for Erection/Maintaining/Dismantling on the reverse.
6. It is common practice to use the following color schemes:

Green - tags will be hung on scaffolds that have been inspected

and are safe for use. A green "SAFE FOR USE" tag(s), and should be attached to the scaffold at each access point after the initial inspection is complete.

Yellow - "CAUTION" tag(s), will replace all green "Safe Scaffold" tag(s) whenever the scaffold has been modified to meet work requirements, and as a result could present a hazard to the user. This tag indicates special requirements for safe use. The tag as a minimum requirement will have:

- The unusual or potential hazard marked on the reverse.
- The preventative measures that must be taken prior to use to mitigate the hazard marked on the reverse.
- The name of the client company representative authorizing the use of the Yellow tagged scaffold.
- The yellow tag should not be removed until the scaffold has been returned to a safe condition and an inspection by a "competent person" has been completed. Based on the results of that inspection the appropriate tag (red or green) will be hung on the scaffold and the yellow tag removed.

NOTE: Use of the "yellow tag" status is not intended to override the green tag system. All efforts should be made to return the scaffold to a "Green Tag" status as soon as possible.

Red " DANGER – UNSAFE FOR USE" tag(s), will be used during erection or dismantling when the scaffold is left unattended and replace all green "Safe for Use " tag(s) or yellow "Caution / Hazard " tag(s) in the event a scaffold has been deemed unfit for use. The tag(s) as a minimum requirement will include:

- The work order number or project number, the inspection date and the name of the person who performed the inspection filled in on the front of the card.
- The designation, under erection, being dismantled, repairs required or overhead protection only, marked on the reverse.
- Scaffold re-inspections must be completed any time when conditions may have changed causing the integrity of the scaffold to be suspect