## Cal/OSHA Scaffolds

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to establish corporate policy and procedures in the selection of materials, erection, inspection, use and dismantling of scaffolding.

1. **Scope**

The scope of this program shall include, but is not limited to, Selection of materials, Methods of erection and dismantling, safe practices in the use and inspection, Personal protective equipment for fall protection, safeguarding of equipment, as well as protective measures to be used by employees working on and around all elevated work areas in the interest of personal, corporate and public safety.

1. **General Requirements**

In the use of patent scaffolding consult the manufacturer’s suggested methods of inspection, erection, and maintenance of the equipment. Care should be taken to enforce all special considerations.

* The footing or anchorage of scaffolding shall be sound, rigid and capable of carrying the maximum load intended without settling or displacement. Unstable objects such as barrels, boxes, loose bricks, or concrete blocks shall be used to support scaffolds or planks.
* No scaffolding shall be erected, moved, dismantled or altered except under the supervision of competent persons or as requested for corrective reasons by the Project Safety Representative.
* Toe boards shall be installed on all open sides and ends of platforms 6 feet above the ground or floor, or lower at client request. Guard rails shall be installed on all open sides and ends of platforms 30 inches above the ground or floor. Scaffolds 4 ft. to 10 ft. in height having a minimum horizontal dimension in either direction of less than 45 inches shall have standard guardrails installed on all open sides and ends of the platform.
* Guardrails must be 2x4 inches, or the equivalent, approximately 42 inches high, with a mid-rail, when required. Supports must be at intervals not to exceed 8 ft. Toe boards shall be a minimum of 4 inches in height. Guardrails are intended to support 200 lb. without failure.
* All planking or platforms shall be overlapped by at least 12 inches or secured in such a manner that prevents movement.
* The work level height of the scaffold shall not exceed 3 times the least (smallest) base dimensions below the working platform.
* Where persons are required to work or pass under scaffolds, scaffolds must be provided with screen or equivalent between toe board and the guardrail, extending along the entire opening consisting of No. 18 U.S. standard wire 1/2-inch mesh or the equivalent.
* Where employees are required to pass or work near scaffolds where welding, cutting or spark producing activity such as grinding or arc gouging activities are being performed a fire blanket material shall cover the floor and all openings up to the guardrail, or equal height of the work being performed to contain the sparks and hot materials. A fire extinguisher shall be present at the work area sign shall be posted warning employees that work is being performed overhead.
* Scaffolds and their components must be capable of supporting without failure at least four times the intended load.
* Any scaffold including accessories such as braces, brackets, trusses, screw legs, ladders, etc., damaged or weakened from any cause must be immediately repaired or replaced.
* All load carrying timber members of scaffold framing be a minimum of 1,500 fiber stress grade construction grade lumber.
* Wheels and casters shall be properly designed to support four times the design working load of the supported scaffold. All scaffold wheels, casters and swivels shall be provided with a positive locking device.
* The design load shall be calculated based on 1 of 3 criteria.
  + Light – carry a working load of 25 lb/s per square foot.
  + Medium – carry a working load of 50 lbs/per square foot.
  + Heavy – carry a working load of 75 lbs/per square foot.
* If leveling of the scaffold is required, screw jacks or other similar means for adjusting the height shall be provided. The screw jack shall extend into its leg tube at a minimum of 1/3 its length. The exposed portion of the screw jack shall never exceed 12 inches.

1. **Scaffold Inspection Tagging**

Scaffold systems shall be inspected prior to use and periodically by a Competent Person. A scaffold tag shall display date of erection, inspector, erector, and rating in pounds per square foot. All scaffolds should be tagged in a highly visible spot. Any scaffold without a tag shall be considered unsafe and is not to be used.

“RED TAG” – Scaffolds that are not safe for use are to be tagged at a visible location with a RED “UNSAFE FOR USE” TAG.

Also, scaffolds being erected shall be re tagged “Do not use”

“YELLOW TAG” – In the event a scaffold or platform cannot be erected in accordance with the applicable codes, i.e., handrails or equivalent fall protection, a YELLOW tag is utilized, this YELLOW tag will have a warning message, “Safety Harness shall be worn, 100% tie off”. Any employee working on a yellow scaffold who is not using safety harness are subject to disciplinary action.

“GREEN TAG” – A complete scaffold, one that meets all OSHA/client guidelines, shall have a Green tag attached to scaffold where it is visible gaining access to the scaffold. Even is a scaffold has a green tag, it must be inspected before use.

Alteration or modifications that must be made to a Green tagged scaffold are to be re-inspected and re-tagged by the foreman who is responsible for the modification. A new tag is to be placed on the scaffold or platform.

“DUTY RATING” – All scaffolding work platforms (work decks) shall have duty ratings as required by OSHA

* + “HEAVY DUTY RATING” – Supports 75 pounds per square foot
  + “MIDIUM DUTY” – Supports 50 pounds per square foot
  + “LIGHT DUTY” – Support 25 pounds per square foot

NOTE – All scaffolds and their components shall be capable of supporting four (4) times their maximum intended load.

1. **Training**

Employees who work on scaffolds shall be trained by a qualified person. Training shall provide employees with the knowledge to determine the hazards associated with scaffolds-ie fall potential, tag recognition, load limits on scaffolds, working near electricity and potential for fall objects.

Employees shall be instructed to never modify a scaffold without the authorization from the competent person and that disciplinary will be taken in unauthorized modifications are made. All training will be documented and kept on file.

Retraining will be required where changes at the worksite present a hazard about which an employee has not been previously trained; or 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 where inadequacies in an affected employee's work involving scaffolds indicate that the employee has not retained the requisite proficiency.