

COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Scaffold Status Tags

According to OSHA, an estimated 2.3 million construction workers, or 65 percent of the construction industry, work on scaffolds. Scaffold-related accidents account for 4,500 injuries and over 60 deaths every year, resulting in \$90 million in workdays lost. However, by using scaffolding tags, most of these scaffolding accidents can be controlled.

■ Scaffold Tagging Guidelines

There are currently no specific requirements that warning tags must be placed on all scaffolds while they are being erected. However, there are instances where warning tags are appropriate and a citation under 29 CFR 1926.200(h)(1) could be issued. 29 CFR 1926.200(h)(1) requires warning tags be placed on any existing hazard such as a defective equipment or tools.

■ Color Schemes:

GREEN



Green "OK" tags should be hung on scaffolds that have been inspected and are safe to use. A green "OK" tag is to be attached to scaffold at each access point after the initial inspection.

YELLOW



Yellow "CAUTION" tags should replace all green "OK" tags whenever the scaffold has been modified to meet work requirements, and as a result could present a hazard to the user.

This tag should have:

- The potential hazard marked
- The preventative measures that must be taken prior to use to mitigate risks
- The name of the party 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 has been completed. Based on results of the inspection, the appropriate tag (red or green) will be hung on the scaffold and the yellow removed. The yellow tag should not be used 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



Red "DANGER" tags should be used during erection or dismantling when the scaffold is left unattended. Be sure to replace all green tags or yellow tags in the event a scaffold has been deemed unfit for use.

Red tags should:

- On the front of the tag, mark the work order number or project number, the inspection date and the name of the person who performed the inspection
- On the back of the tag, mark the designation such as under erection or being dismantled, any repairs required or if overhead protection is required

Scaffolding re-inspections must be completed any time any conditions may have changed causing the integrity of the scaffold to be suspect

■ 3 Steps to Safe Scaffold Tagging

■ Step 1: "Incomplete"

During the process of erecting your scaffold, place a red "DANGER" tag on the scaffold to indicate that the scaffold is only partially complete and may not have all appropriate safety features installed.



■ Step 2: "Pre-Shift"

Plan and prepare the remaining scaffolding tags you will need during the construction of your scaffold. Fill out the necessary information to identify the scaffold, location and scaffolder. Optional yellow "CAUTION" tags may be used when a scaffold has been modified to indicate potential risk factors and to create awareness of the scaffold while it is erected.

■ Step 3: "Complete"

Once the scaffold is complete and the final inspection is done, place a green "OK" tag to indicate that the scaffold is ready to use. A green "OK" tag should be attached to the scaffold at each access point after the initial inspection is complete.

