

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH
455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, 10TH FLOOR
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ADDRESS REPLY TO:
PO BOX 420803
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94142-0803

September 10, 2001

Pat Harrison, Safety Manager
Shea Homes
603 S. Valencia Ave., Ste 200
Brea, CA 9283

Dear Mr. Harrison:

This is in response to your letter dated July 23, 2001, requesting clarification relating to the number of planks required at various levels on metal scaffolds, addressing three (3) main concerns as follows:

1. **Is one (1) 2 X 10 plank acceptable as a work platform on a metal scaffold up to 4 feet in height?**
 Ans: Cal/OSHA safety orders will only allow a single 2 X 10 plank as a work platform up to a height of 4 feet in two specific areas which are "Light-Trade Wooden Pole Scaffolds", T8.CCR, Section 1640 (b)(5)(A) Exception. And "Horse Scaffolds", T8.CCR, Section 1647(e)(2). Your question indicated the use of metal scaffolds and a single 2 X 10 plank will not be permitted as an acceptable work platform.
2. **Are two (2) 2 X 10 planks acceptable as a work platform on a metal scaffold up to 7 1/2 feet?**
 Ans: The safety orders refer to a work platform at least 20 inches wide [Ref: Section 1637(a)] as an adequate work surface and the work platform requirements for metal scaffolds [Section 1644(a)(7)] makes reference to a back railing which is only required for heights of 7 1/2 feet or more above grade, therefore, two (2) 2 X 10 planks would be an acceptable work platform for a metal scaffold up to a height of 7 1/2 feet above grade.
3. **Are scaffold planks 1 1/2 inches X 9 1/2 inches net measurements acceptable?**
 Ans: Scaffold plank dimensions are considered to be (Nominal) and accepted as a 2 X 10 plank. [Ref: Section 1637(f)]

Article 21, Scaffold- General Requirements include many various types of scaffolds (wood & metal) such as Pump Jack, Ladder Jack, Horse Scaffold and Light & Heavy Trade wooden pole scaffolds.

Your questions to the Division for clarification identify the inconsistency of the specifications for work platforms depending on the type of scaffold involved. You may want to contact the occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to address such inconsistencies.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to me in the Division Headquarters Office by calling (415) 703-5100 or by mail to the address indicated above.

Sincerely,

/s/

Larry McCune, PE
Principal Safety Engineer

w/LM

cc: John MacLeod, OSHSB
Sr. Safety Staff