

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

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February 2, 2009

To Scaffold Inspection and Test Agencies:

Subject: Scaffold Hoists

The Division has been investigating a number of power platform hoist incidents involving permanently installed window cleaning/exterior building maintenance systems and the use of transportable powered platforms suspended by building owned safety equipment. The inspection records for the hoists were not sufficient to determine if the hoists had been inspected and tested as recommended by the manufacturer.

Permanent platform hoists stored on the roofs of buildings are subject to deteriorating conditions even though they may have been used infrequently. The manufacturers instructions for the hoists used on permanent powered platforms requires at minimum that annual inspection, maintenance and shop load testing be performed to assure that hoists are functional. It is necessary to remove the hoists from the building to adequately perform the shop tests and maintenance recommended by the manufacturer. The annual inspection also needs to include the condition of the wire rope, electrical controls, platform, fall protection anchorages and suspension system. Records of hoist inspection including load testing, brake testing and maintenance shall be documented in the building's records as required by sections 3296 and 3297 of Title 8, California Code of Regulations.

The Division will also require that rental or employer owned transportable scaffold hoists used for window cleaning, building maintenance and construction be inspected and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions as required by Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 3328(b).

"Machinery and equipment in service shall be inspected and maintained as recommended by the manufacturer where such recommendations are available."

Any questions should be directed to me at the address on this letterhead or by telephone at (510) 286-7013.

Sincerely,

Larry McCune, PE

Principal Safety Engineer

File: SIT Agencies