

# Scaffold Tag Color Chart - Quick Reference

Standard color-coded scaffold tagging system for construction and industrial sites

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## GREEN - SAFE FOR USE

### Meaning

Scaffold has been fully erected per design specifications, inspected by a competent person and meets all applicable requirements. No restrictions on access.

### When Applied

- After full erection and competent person inspection
- After successful re-inspection following repairs
- Before each shift (daily verification)

### Worker Action

Access and use the scaffold normally. Verify the tag date matches today. Report any visible damage or changes to the competent person immediately.

## YELLOW - RESTRICTED USE

### Meaning

Scaffold has known limitations or is partially complete. Only authorized workers who have been briefed on the specific restrictions may access it.

### When Applied

- Scaffold under construction or being dismantled
- Incomplete guardrails (fall arrest required)
- Reduced load capacity in effect
- Minor deficiency pending repair

### Worker Action

Read the tag restrictions carefully. Follow all listed precautions (tie-off, reduced load, limited access). Do not exceed stated limitations. If unsure, ask the competent person before accessing.

## RED - DO NOT USE

### Meaning

Scaffold is unsafe. No one may access it for any reason. The scaffold is incomplete, structurally compromised, damaged or has not been inspected.

### When Applied

- Scaffold not yet inspected by competent person
- Structural deficiency found (cracked frame, missing bracing)
- Damage from impact, weather or overloading
- Scaffold condemned by engineer

### Worker Action

Do not access the scaffold under any circumstances. Report the red tag to your supervisor. Do not attempt repairs unless you are the authorized competent person. Barricade the access point if possible.

# OSHA 1926.451 Key Requirements

## Competent Person Inspections (1926.451(f)(3)):

- Scaffolds must be inspected by a competent person **before each work shift**
- Re-inspection required after any event that could affect structural integrity
- Competent person must have authority to stop work and remove personnel

## Fall Protection Requirements:

- Guardrails required on all open sides when platform is **10 feet or more** above the lower level
- Top rail height: 38 to 45 inches above platform
- Mid-rail required at approximately half the height of the top rail
- Toeboards required (minimum 3.5 inches tall) on all open sides

## Training Requirements (1926.454):

- All scaffold users must be trained by a qualified person
- Training must cover hazard recognition, fall protection and load limits
- Retraining required when hazards change or performance deficiencies are observed

## Violations and Penalties (2024-2025):

- Serious violation: up to **\$16,131 per violation**
- Willful or repeated: up to **\$161,323 per violation**
- Failure to abate: up to **\$16,131 per day** beyond abatement date
- Scaffolding is consistently a **top-3 OSHA citation category**

# Scaffold Inspection Tag Template

## SCAFFOLD INSPECTION TAG

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**SCAFFOLD ID / NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION / DESCRIPTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE INSPECTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSPECTED BY (COMPETENT PERSON):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAXIMUM LOAD CAPACITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESTRICTIONS / NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GREEN</b> Safe for Use	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YELLOW</b> Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>RED</b> Do Not Use
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Attach this tag at the scaffold access point. Replace daily after each inspection.