

PUNCH LIST

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SCBA

BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION HAS A NEW WEB SITE GO TAKE A LOOK AT ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER YOU CAN SCHEDULE A TRAINING CLASS ON LINE YOU CAN DOWN LOAD SAFETY MEETING TOPICS AND MUCH MORE OR GO CHECK OUT WWW.SOCALBUILDERS.ORG

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Cal/OSHA's Regulated Chemicals by Shirley Caraveo, M.S. Safety

With Autumn quickly approaching, many of our thoughts are turning to football season. In California, the college circuit has its PAC 10 – the powerhouse teams, any one of which pose a serious threat to other opposing teams. Well Cal/OSHA has its own version of serious threats. These are the substances which can cause cancer, known as the Regulated Carcinogens.

What They All Have In Common.

They all have the following common characteristics. On the SCBA website, you will find an information grid on these and other carcinogens as a quick reference guide.

1. They are cancer causing agents
2. Their attack on the body is chronic (over time)
3. They attack Target Organs
4. Specialized Training is required to protect employees
5. Personal Protective Equipment needs to be used
6. Special Handling Procedures are in effect
7. There are Medical Monitoring Requirements to follow, to monitor potential exposures

Where Cal/OSHA's Regulated Carcinogens Are Most Commonly Found:

1. Contractors: Structural Steel, Rebar, Fireproofing, Electrical and Piping:

5206. Chromium (VI) : This is used in Plating Operations, to harden steel alloys and produce stainless steels. It adds a corrosion-resistance to decorative plating and acts as a glass pigment. Any welding or torch cutting of stainless steel could generate an exposure to chromium.

5208. Asbestos.: Among its uses, it will be found in for fireproofing materials, electrical insulation, and building materials. It is also used in some cement pipe

and cement sheet products. It was used in vinyl flooring and roofing materials, so demolition of these in older buildings presents an exposure.

5209. Carcinogens. : Carcinogens are a group of cancer causing agents. They can be found in dozens of sources.

- Look for them in Vinyl Chloride; which is used in making PVC pipes. More on this below.

- Crystalline Silica: Although not on the actual Cal/OSHA list of regulated carcinogens, silica has been identified as a human lung carcinogen. Abrasive blasting often uses silica sand and the silica sand in concrete can become an exposure when jack hammering, concrete mixing, concrete drilling and dry sweeping of concrete. Even trenching or excavating in very sandy soil potentially presents an exposure.

5210. Vinyl Chloride. : As mentioned above, it has numerous uses It is used in building and construction; electrical wire insulation and cable coatings; and of course, piping. Other notable uses are in the automotive and the glass industries, and in packaging materials.

5216. Lead. : Used in containers and pipes for corrosives, solder and type metal, paints, and anti-knock compounds. Lead was also used to seal cable connections and splices and some mortar contains lead or lead compounds.

5207. Cadmium. : The cadmium by-product is mostly used in metal plating and to make pigments, batteries, and plastics. Sanding, scraping, burning, brazing, cutting or welding on surfaces that have cadmium coatings presents potential exposure. Cadmium welding and brazing obviously presents exposure to affected employees.

2. Contractors: Landscaping and Decking

5213. Acrylonitrile. : Most acrylonitrile is used to the manufacture acrylic rubber and fibers.



Fax your questions to the Code Consultant (Chuck Daleo) at (626)330-5171. To the SCBA members—The SCBA has retained me to be available to members to answer timely code-related questions that occur during the course of construction, whether in the plan check or building stages. Remember, there is no cost to the members for this services. Because I could be in a meeting when you call my cell phone, you may also call me at my office (626)369-1228 and leave me a message. I retrieve my messages from the field when I am done with my meeting and I call as soon as I am able. Here are a few examples with which I have tried to help:

Ask the Code Consultant.

By Chuck Daleo

Q: I think I am in trouble. I remodeled existing restrooms in a restaurant and apparently I didn't install the grab bars correctly. The work passed inspection and three months later the restaurant got sued for accessibility and cited the grab bars as being in violation. How liable am I?

Bill C.

I've said it before – I cannot and will not give legal opinions.

There's more to the story.

The restaurant was given a legal complaint that it did not comply with accessibility laws. There were many allegations of violations, including the restroom handrails. As far as the restrooms, that was the only issue.



I won't get into the specifics because Bill may have to fix the errors, if the complaint is valid. He might also be responsible for any monetary damages the restaurant might suffer. But, that is for the attorneys to hammer out.

ASK THE CODE CONSULTANT

One of the problems in dealing with accessibility complaints is that, forensically, it is easy to measure such items as clearances, heights and reach requirements. Each error will be cited in a complaint and each can carry a monetary damage, of about \$4,000.

In this case, Bill's task was to remodel the restrooms in order to comply with the accessibility requirements. Therefore, the scope and purpose of his permit was to improve an existing condition so that the restrooms were made accessible.

The restaurant owner had been advised to update the restrooms to current accessible standards by a wheelchair user who happens to be a regular customer.

At a great expense, the restaurant owner decided to do the right thing and engaged Bill's services.

Sounds like a good deal – right?

Then, the worst happened. The complaining party (a wheelchair user) evidently checks into recent TI's at the building department, then goes out to see if the accessibility laws were followed.

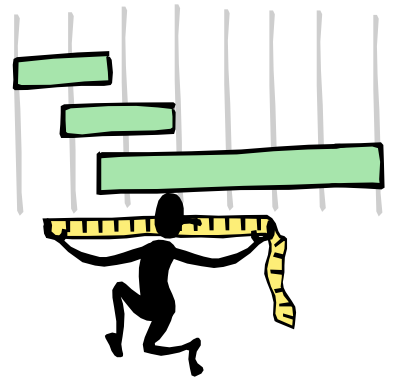
In this case, the complainant found that there several issues with the restaurant including the seating arrangements. He also found the error in the handrails and also named that as a violation.

The complaint alleges that the owner failed to remove all barriers even though he was updating the restrooms. The complaint also alleged that restroom remodel

also lacked full compliance (because of the grab bars).

Remember that the owner was trying to do the right thing by his regular customer. He even had this customer check things out and was pleased with the remodel work.

OK- let's get into some Building Code and ADA issues. First of all, the grab bar requirements; height, size, clearances, location and lengths.



Height – the center of the grab bar shall be 33" above the floor when placed on a sidewall. On the rear wall, the height may be as high as 36" when a tank-top toilet is used.

Size – the diameter may be between 1¼" to 1½".

Clearances – the clearance between an adjacent wall and the grab bar must be 1½".

Location and lengths– the side grab bar shall be a minimum 42 inches in length, mounted 12 inches from the rear wall and

KALB'S Q & A



Like Truman and MacArthur or Obama and McChrystal I will explain to an unhappy specialty contractor what a 'General' can and can't do in California. Scammers have found a new way to 'pick the pocket' of contractors and you should be on alert. I start with a Responsible Managing Employee with a question many Qualifiers may have asked themselves...

Q: When will I get an RME license certificate or pocket license for my company? I passed my test a month ago and became our company's new qualifying person but have not received anything from the Contractors Board.

A: The CSLB does not send a new pocket or wall certificate when there has been a replacement of the qualifier (RME or Responsible Managing Officer/RMO). They only do this when a new license is issued or when adding a classification to an existing license.

Q: I enjoy reading your column in our local Builder's Exchange newsletter. I checked back issues to try and find an answer for this, but didn't find anything that quite fit. I'd appreciate any light you could shed on this.

I had a "B" licensed contractor tell me they can self-perform all of the work required for a TI building contract. Is this true? The work includes framing, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical, etc. The plumbing portion includes the installation of a boiler, and the mechanical includes HHW piping. A "C-36" Plumbing Contractor cannot install a boiler unless they also possess a "C-4" license. So if a

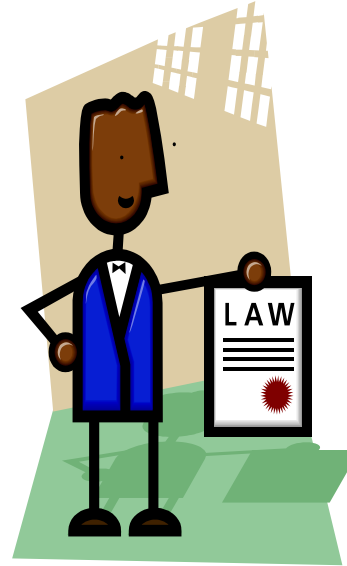
plumber can't perform some related plumbing work without having additional specialty licensing, how can a "B"? Also, the test for a "B" license doesn't address much in the way of plumbing, electrical, etc., so how can they be considered qualified in these fields?

A: This "B" contractor you spoke with was correct. A General building contractor may self perform all trades except fire sprinklers ("C-16") or well drilling ("C-57"). This would include, but not be limited to boilers, plumbing, electrical, etc. While many specialty classifications do not allow for work in another trade, the "B" does allow for this as long as the project involves 2 or more unrelated trades (other than framing or carpentry). Regardless of whether the state exam addresses the many trades allowed under the "B" this no way invalidates the ability of the General to self-perform most all work if he or she chooses.

Thanks for reading the column; I hope this clarification helps. In the future, if you need more information, please visit my web site (www.cutredtape.com). It contains a keyword function to search by topic from my past 12 years of columns.

Contractor's Alert! Beware of License Renewal Fraud

According to The California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) some states are experiencing incidents of license renewal fraud. Licensees have received notices in the mail that instruct the contractor to send their renewal fee to a name and address that is different from the regulating government agency. This is similar to a SCAM the CA Secretary of State reported on last year whereby companies were having corpo-



Knowledge is power. Knowing Where to go for the answers is half the battle.

rations send their Statement of Information to a phony address along with an exorbitant fee.

Do not be fooled if you receive this type of notice. In California, renewals should be sent to: Registrar of Contractors, Contractor's State License Board, P.O. Box 26999 Sacramento, CA 95826. Licenses are renewed every two years and the CSLB typically mails a renewal application to active licensees approximately 60 days before their expiration date. The application must be completed, signed, and returned to the CSLB with the appropriate fee. Inactive licenses are renewed every four years.

Anyone who believes he or she has been a victim of license renewal fraud should contact the CSLB immediately.

While knowledge is power, knowing where to go for the answers is half the battle. Get expert assistance immediately when you call 866-443-0657, email info@cutredtape.com, or write me at Capitol Services, Inc., 1225 8th St. Ste. 580, Sacramento, CA 95814. Research past columns at www.cutredtape.com.

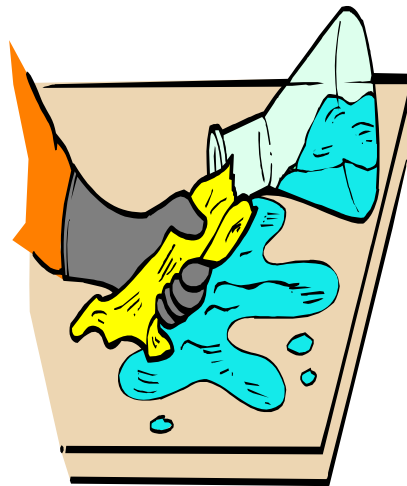
TAILGATE TOPICS

Working Safely with Chemicals

Chemicals come in various forms and can affect those exposed in different ways. A chemical can take the form of a mist, vapor, liquid, dust, fume or gas. The type of chemical, the way it is used, and the form that it takes determine its effect and what should be done to avoid harmful exposure. Some basic safety precautions should be understood and followed including:

- Know what to do in an emergency. If there is a leak or spill, keep away from the area, unless you know what the chemical is and how to safely clean it up. Know where emergency protective equipment and supplies kept and how to use them.
- Use appropriate protective clothing and equipment (glasses, aprons, boots, gloves, etc.) as required or as necessary.
- If the clothing becomes contaminated by the chemical, shower or wash the skin areas exposed. Change and decontaminate clothing (or dispose of clothing if it is designed to single use).
- Do not take contaminated clothing home to be laundered because by doing so, it could expose family members to the contaminant.

- When working with chemicals, always wash hands thoroughly before eating. If necessary, shower and change clothes before going home.
- Never take food into the work



area where chemicals are being used or stored.

- If work will be done in an area where there is a possibility of exposure to toxic substances, use a buddy system or establish an emergency communication system. A worker can be dangerously exposed or overcome by a chemical and need immediate assistance.
- Keep the workplace clean to reduce the risk of contamination. Where possible, wipe up and absorb the contaminant, using proper protective equipment as required. Clean up spills immedi-

ately and dispose of contaminated material properly. With some chemicals a vacuum is recommended for clean up rather than a broom or compressed air. The idea is to collect and confine the contaminant, not just spread it around. Workers should know the company's system for identifying hazardous chemicals. They should know and understand the specific health and safety hazards of the chemicals with which they work and follow the recommended safety precautions. All workers should be trained in proper chemical storage and disposal procedures and know what to do for first aid and emergencies.

The above evaluations and/or recommendations are for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes. They are based solely on the information provided to us and relate only to those conditions specifically discussed. We do not make any warranty, expressed or implied, that your workplace is safe or healthful or that it complies with all laws, regulations or standards.

TEMES de PUERTA POSTERIOR

Trabajando con los productos químicos

Los productos químicos pueden tener diversas formas y pueden afectar de manera diferente a quienes entran en contacto con ellos. Los productos químicos pueden tener forma de niebla, vapor, líquido, polvo o gases. El tipo de producto, la forma en que se usa y sus propiedades físicas pueden determinar sus efectos y lo que se debe hacer para evitar una exposición nociva. Es necesario entender y observar algunas precauciones básicas de seguridad, incluyendo las siguientes:

- Saber qué se debe hacer en caso de emergencia. Si ocurre una fuga o derrame, manténgase alejado del área, a no ser que usted sepa de qué producto químico se trata y cómo limpiarlo en forma segura. Saber dónde se guardan los equipos de protección de emergencia y cómo usarlos.
- Usar la ropa y equipos de protección apropiados (gafas, delantales, botas, guantes, etc.) según sea necesario u obligatorio.
- Si la ropa resulta contaminada por el producto químico, báñese bajo una regadera o lávese las áreas de la piel expuestas. Cámbiese de ropa y descontáminela (deseche la ropa si está diseñada para un solo uso).
- No se lleve ropa contaminada a su casa para lavarla, ya que el hacerlo puede exponer al resto de su familia al contaminante.
- Cuando trabaje con productos químicos, siempre debe lavarse

bien las manos antes de comer. Si es necesario báñese bajo una regadera y cámbiese de ropa antes de regresar a su casa.

- Nunca lleve alimentos a un área de trabajo en que se usen o se almacenen productos químicos.



- Si es necesario hacer algún trabajo en un área con posibilidades de exposición a alguna sustancia tóxica, se debe tener un compañero de trabajo o establecer un sistema de comunicación de emergencia. Un trabajador puede resultar expuesto o vencido por un producto químico nocivo y precisar de ayuda inmediata.
- Mantenga el sitio de trabajo limpio para reducir el riesgo de contaminación. Cuando sea posible, limpie y absorba el contaminante, utilizando equipos de protección ap-

ropiados según sea necesario. Limpie los derrames de inmediato y deseche correctamente los materiales contaminados. Con algunos productos químicos se recomienda usar una aspiradora para la limpieza en lugar de una escoba o aire comprimido. La idea es recolectar y encerrar el contaminante en lugar de esparcirlo por todo el sitio. Los trabajadores deben conocer el sistema de la empresa para identificar los productos químicos peligrosos. Deben saber y entender los peligros específicos a la salud y a la seguridad que conllevan los distintos productos químicos con que trabajan, así como cumplir con las precauciones recomendadas de seguridad. Todos los trabajadores deben estar entrenados en el almacenaje correcto de los productos químicos y los procedimientos de desecho de los mismos, y saber qué hacer en caso de emergencia o si se precisan primeros auxilios

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Cal/OSHA's Regulated Chemicals
by Shirley Caraveo, M.S. Safety

Smaller amounts are used for other purposes, such as to develop pesticides. It is also used in the plastics industry.

5214. Inorganic Arsenic. : One form of inorganic arsenic, chromated copper arsenate (CCA), has been commonly used as a preservative in wood products to prevent rotting from insects and microbial agents (1, 4).

5217. Formaldehyde. : Used as a preservative, an embalming agent, and a disinfectant. Among its other uses, is to create insecticides.

5219. Ethylene Dibromide (EDB). : Used a fumigant for treatment of logs for termites and beetles, control of moths in beehives.

Please note that this is not the total list of Regulated Carcinogens.....

There are additional carcinogens which are more likely to appear in Fixed Site operations. Their uses will be covered on the SCBA website. Go on line to find a more complete decription of Regulated Carcinogens there.

Searching for More Information: Material Safety Data Sheets and Labels

While the chemical hazards described above hazardous; the way they are most likely to be used in the construction industry are as solids. As such, they tend to be stable. However, if you weld or use a torch to cut; machine, grind, cut or otherwise manipulate materials with these substances within them; you **may release** these carcinogens in the form of vapors, dusts, mists or fumes. But please note:

The operative words here, are “may release”.

You need to consult your Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) and labels for more specific information. During the next two newsletters in this series we will discuss MSDS and labeling requirements. We will break these topics down so that you have a better understanding of how to find out whether carcinogens are within your materials; and where to look.

Want more immediate information? Sign up for our free monthly e-mail service. Our next two releases will also be on MSDS and Labels, pre-empting the next two month's Punch list articles; for those of you who need to know about them right now. Contact Tammy Young at www.socalbuilders.org, to get on our e-mail list.

You should note that we have described these chemical hazards only in terms of their cancer causing nature. But remember, each one of these substances may have other hazardous properties which you must also consider before working with them..

To obtain more information about Hazard Communication go to:

- S.C.B.A. website:** www.socalbuilders.org
- State Fund website:** www.scif.com. We've placed a link on the SCBA website Home Page
- Cal/OSHA website:** www.dir.ca.gov We've placed a link to the Cal/OSHA Website on the SCBA Website Home Page

ASK THE CODE CONSULTANT

extend at least 24 inches in front of the toilet.

The rear grab bar must be at least 36 inches long, and extend 12 inches from the centerline of the toilet and 24 inches on the other side.

All of the above can be found in Figure 11B-1A of the 2007 CBC. None of these items are new and all contractors should know the specifics by now.

The second CBC issue is that in Section 1134B, the CBC exempts any additional access upgrades when the

purpose of the permit is to remove existing barriers.

This means that the restroom remodel did not require that the owner “fix” other items such as the seating arrangements. However, the owner must still face the complaint that alleges that the ADA was violated mainly because the restaurant is a public place.

Getting back to the CBC specific requirements, one can readily see that the dimensions that are so specified in the CBC can be sometimes difficult to deal with in construction. There are some tolerances but not much. Unfortunately, it will take a response to the complaint to sort out the solutions.



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