

WAREHOUSE EQUIPMENT CONSUMER SAFETY BULLETIN

This is a **consumer product safety bulletin** designed to help you purchase **warehouse equipment** that is safe for your area and application. It will take about 10 minutes so if you don't want to go any further you can reach us at **925-348-1244**.

We have been in the material handling equipment business in San Francisco for over 36 years so we have a good idea of what **OSHA** requires, in addition to **Fire Code, International Building Code**, and the **planning departments of most of the cities in the San Francisco Bay Area**.

1. Did you know that **flammable storage cabinets** must have self closing doors to be approved in California? We have recently run into a State University who had to get rid of (15) and a testing laboratory who bought (2) 45 gallon cabinets with double doors for over \$700 each and they have to replace them because they didn't know that **Cal OSHA won't approve them**. And they have no resale value in California except as a used cabinet for \$40.

2. Did you know there is a **minimum height to width ratio for rolling steel steps** in California? It is about **3 to one**. So don't buy them on the Internet from out of state sources or you might get burned.

3. Did you know that all **racks and shelving** are required to be anchored to the floor in California. Even **file cabinets** are to be anchored. Sometimes you may be required to have the **anchoring process inspected** and use **special anchors** depending on what the engineer or

architect specifies.

4. Do you know what “**seismic design** means”? It means earthquake proof and it changes from year to year.

5. Did you know that **California is in a seismic 4 zone** and requires more stringent safety codes for earthquakes than any other states east of us? So if you buy racks from other states they may not be safe in California.

We use an engineer to calculate the weight of the loads you are placing on the racks vs. the rack capacity vs. the levels you stack upon vs. the thickness of the concrete slab and makeup of the concrete vs. the proximity you are to known fault lines. These **calculations and drawings** must be done for each brand of racks, and different capacities and different loads to get a **building permit**.

6. Don't forget your loading dock. Materials need to flow smoothly in and out of the warehouse so you need the proper **dock leveler** to transition from the dock to the truck bed height, loading lights to illuminate the inside of the truck, and dock shelters to prevent loss of heat from the warehouse. You will also need **wheel chocks** and **ICC bumper locks** to prevent trucks from pulling away from the dock until the forklift driver is out of the truck. This will prevent lost loads, lost time due to injuries, and damages to the forklift.

7. If you are moving into a building and pulling **building permits** to make modifications to the building you will have **inspectors** going over the modifications to make sure they meet all applicable building, electrical, fire and

safety codes. When they do this they will ask you for your **seismic calculations and drawings** on your racks to show that they meet codes. We can do them for you. We charge \$1000/ set. We also **retrofit racks to meet code**.

8. If you choose to wait until all the inspectors are through to install your racks you run the risk of being sued by an employee who was hurt in an accident or an **earthquake that could happen any time**. This could cost you an increase in insurance premiums if not loss of insurance coverage. If you lose insurance coverage then you may lose your business. We aren't the cops we are merely providing enough information for you to make an informed decision. After all we sell some used racks that are not seismic design.

9. Did you know there is an **OSHA requirement for a special width of aisle** in every room for wheel chair traffic?

10. Did you know that **netting may be required on the top level of your racks** to prevent materials from falling on people working below?

11. Do you know what kinds of **forklifts** to use to maximize the materials stored in your warehouse vs. the aisle space required?

12. Do you have to maintain "first in, first out" movement of materials? Or, if there is no shelf life or obsolescence, is "last in, first out" okay? If so you could benefit

from very dense storage using "**drive-in racks**".

Why not use us to **audit your equipment and warehouse layout** and take care of all

these problems for free? We will specify what equipment to buy so that you can get 3

bids before purchasing. If you buy the equipment from us then **the**

audit is free. If not then you pay us \$510 for the audit and purchase from whomever you choose. But you won't be purchasing equipment that is unsafe only to turn around and have to buy more equipment to replace it when an inspector tells you that it doesn't meet code.

And any one of your employees could call for an OSHA inspection due to unsafe working conditions.

It's a "win/win proposition". We offer design, layout drawings, calculations and drawings, permit package, and installation.

Call us at 925-348-1244.

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Concord, CA 94520