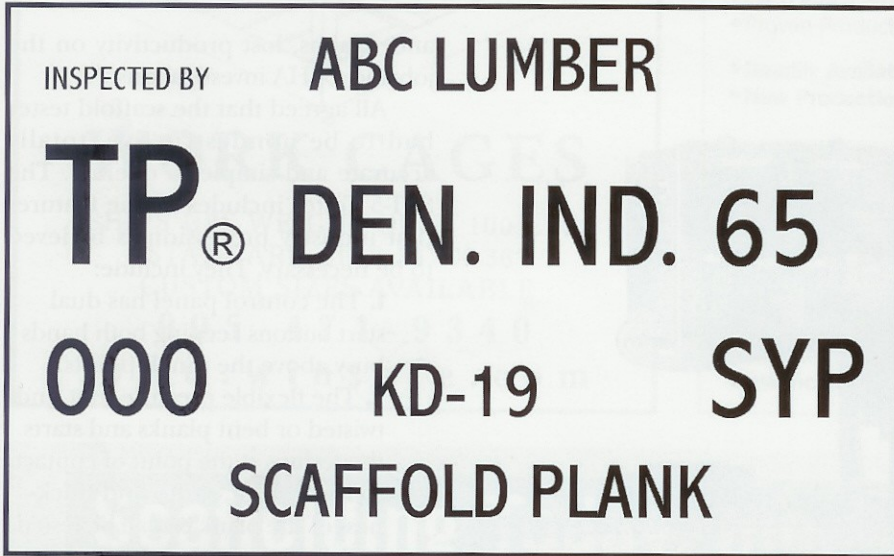


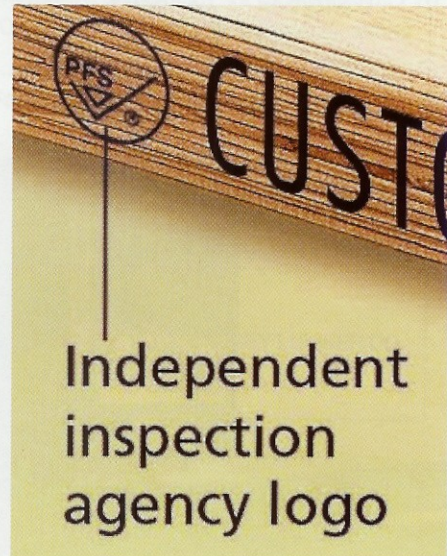
Making the Mark

How to identify scaffold plank

By Colby Hubler



An example of a solid sawn grade stamp.



An example of a third party inspection agency stamp.

The Scaffold Industry Association Plank & Platform Council receives many calls with respect to identifying scaffold plank that have no visible markings, not allowing a competent or qualified person to verify that the wood in question is and should be used for scaffold plank.

Some of the product in question is scaffold plank, with markings that have simply faded away with time or have been covered by mortar or plaster. Some of the product in question is of a lesser material than scaffold plank and should have never been allowed to be used in that fashion.

Mandatory Marks

In situations like this, when identifying scaffold plank in the field, it is imperative to look for the following

Mandatory Markings:

Solid Sawn Scaffold Plank: All solid sawn wood planks shall be rated as “scaffold plank” grade and shall be certified by or bear the grade stamp of a grading agency approved by the American Lumber Standards Committee. (see photo)

Engineered Wood Scaffold Plank: All engineered wood scaffold plank shall bear the seal of an independent, nationally recognized inspection agency certifying compliance with engineered scaffold plank design criteria. (see photo)

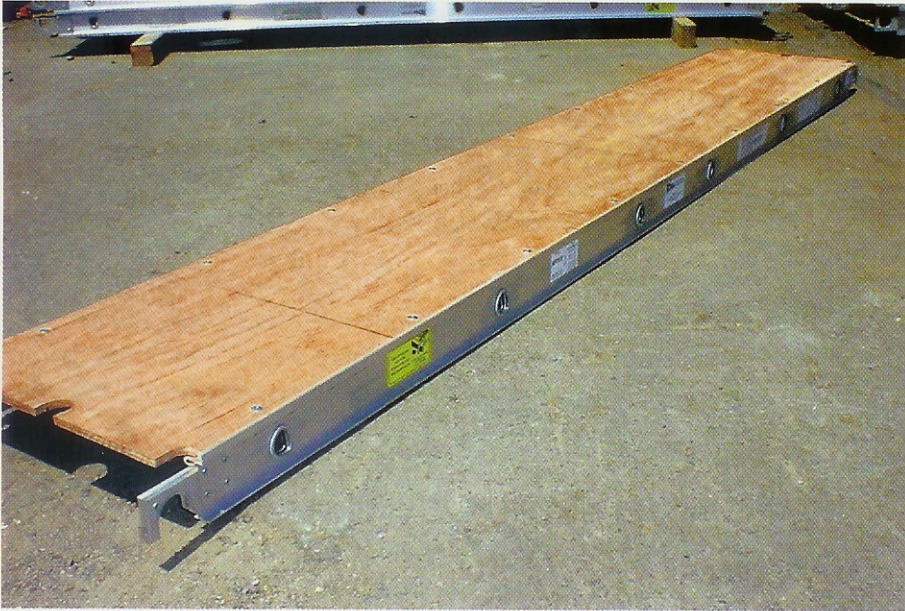
Scaffold Decks and Fabricated Platforms: Shall be marked and identified by the rated working load specified in ANSI A10.8-2001

(5.1.2.3) (Photo 3)

After years of usage, the mandatory markings on any scaffold plank can easily fade away due to weather exposure or normal wear, making identification difficult.

“... the mandatory markings on any scaffold plank can easily fade away due to weather... making identification difficult.”

What can be done to alleviate this problem?



An example of a metal platform.

First and foremost, there are no easy answers. Questions with respect to unmarked scaffold planks will continue to arise, but there are many options.

Control your inventory. When receiving new plank, make sure every piece of solid sawn plank has the mandatory grade stamp. Make sure every piece of engineered wood plank has the mandatory third party inspection stamp.

planks that are questionable.

Most manufacturers of scaffold plank have already made identification easier. In addition to the required grade stamp, third-party inspection stamp or load ratings, many manufacturers have incorporated an edge-branding process that will last considerably longer than a stamp on the face (top) of the plank.

Edge branding on wood planks

plank is in compliance. Any edge branding must be in addition to the mandatory grade stamp).

Look In Your Tool Bag

The SIA has developed many tools that can help identify worn scaffold plank. Currently available are the handbooks on Solid Sawn Scaffold Plank, Engineered Wood Scaffold Plank and Metal Planks and Platforms. These are vital tools that anyone working with scaffold plank should have in their back pocket.

The handbooks will answer many questions with respect to required markings and will point you in the right direction for any unanswered ones. These are available online at www.scaffold.org.

Over the last few years, the Scaffold Industry Association has been working to change the ANSI A10.8 Section 5 on Platform Units and Platforms. Once approved, the proposed changes will enhance mandatory markings by requiring all wood scaffold plank manufacturers to place the words "SCAFFOLD PLANK" on both edges of the plank. Furthermore, all engineered type scaffold platforms shall be permanently marked as a scaffold platform.

Also, the Plank and Platform Council has been working diligently on a Plank Identification and Training CD that encompasses all aspects of new and used scaffold plank and appropriate action guidelines. This is a thorough culmination of planking issues, documented with photo examples.

Ask For Help

If there are questionable scaffold planks on your jobsite, contact a qualified or competent person immediately to assess the subject planks. If questions remain, contact the manufacturer (if known) or feel free to enlist the help of the Scaffold Industry Association at (602) 257-1144 or via email at info@scaffold.org. ■

“Edge branding on wood planks or labels (stickers) on metal platforms are more easily identifiable and in conjunction with the mandatory markings can significantly reduce misidentified plank on the jobsite.”

Make sure every scaffold deck or fabricated platform is marked and identified by their rated working load. Do not allow substandard material to mix into your scaffold plank inventory when returning from the jobsite. Mandate that your used plank inventory is reviewed to meet the standards and separate out

or labels (stickers) on metal platforms are more easily identifiable and in conjunction with the mandatory markings can significantly reduce misidentified plank on the jobsite.

(Note: With respect to solid sawn scaffold plank, edge branding alone with the words Scaffold Plank or OSHA do not signify that the

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