Blocking Raised Equipment Meeting Kit

WHAT’S AT STAKE

Blocking raised equipment refers to a safety practice used in various industries and workplaces to prevent the unintentional movement or collapse of equipment or machinery that is elevated above the ground, such as elevated platforms, machinery on stands, or other raised structures. The purpose of blocking is to create a stable and secure foundation to support the raised equipment and ensure the safety of workers and nearby personnel.

WHAT’S THE DANGER

DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH BLOCKING RAISED EQUIPMENT

If the blocking materials are not appropriately sized or secured, the raised equipment may become unstable and lead to tilting, sliding, or even collapsing, posing a severe risk to workers.

Using blocking materials with insufficient load-bearing capacity can cause them to compress or fail under the weight of the equipment. This could lead to sudden equipment movement, jeopardizing the safety of workers.

Poorly placed or inadequately secured blocking materials can create tripping hazards for workers or obstruct walkways, leading to accidents and injuries.

If the equipment is not adequately leveled during the blocking process, it may lead to an uneven distribution of weight, affecting the stability of the equipment and causing it to shift or tip.

If blocked equipment is not regularly inspected for signs of wear, damage, or shifting, any potential issues may go unnoticed,

increasing the risk of equipment failure or accidents.

Failing to adhere to the manufacturer’s guidelines and recommendations for blocking raised equipment may lead to unintended consequences.

When it comes time to remove the blocking after completing a task, improper removal practices can cause the equipment to become unstable or lead to mishaps.

When raised equipment activities are blocked, work schedules may be disrupted, causing delays in projects. This can lead to increased costs and losses.

Blocking raised equipment may force workers to find alternative, less efficient ways to perform their tasks. This can slow down productivity and increase the likelihood of errors.

In many industries, there are specific regulations and safety standards that govern the use of raised equipment. Blocking these activities without proper authorization or compliance with regulations can result in legal issues and penalties for the responsible parties.

If blocking raised equipment leads to accidents, injuries, or property damage, the responsible parties may be held liable for the consequences resulting in legal actions, fines, and compensation claims.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

WHAT WORKERS NEED TO KNOW FOR THEIR SAFETY

- **Assessment:** Before any blocking is done, a thorough assessment of the raised equipment and its load capacity is essential. Engineers or qualified personnel should evaluate the equipment to determine the appropriate size and type of blocking needed.
- **Selecting the right blocking material:** Blocking materials are chosen based on the weight and load-bearing capacity of the equipment. Common materials used for blocking include

wooden blocks, metal cribbing, or specially designed blocking pads.

- **Positioning:** The blocking material is carefully placed under the raised equipment at specific points where it can safely support the load.
- **Leveling:** The blocking is adjusted to ensure that the equipment is level and stable. This step is crucial for maintaining the balance of the equipment and preventing any potential tilting or instability.
- **Securing:** Once the blocking is correctly positioned and leveled, it should be firmly secured to prevent any accidental movement or displacement.
- **Regular inspection:** Blocked equipment should be regularly inspected for signs of wear, damage, or shifting. If any issues are found, the blocking should be replaced or adjusted promptly to maintain safety.

BEST SAFETY STEPS FOR WORKERS IN BLOCKING OPERATIONS

- Ensure that you have received proper training and are familiar with the specific equipment you'll be working with.
- Wear appropriate PPE for the task including hard hats, safety goggles, gloves, steel-toed boots, and any other gear to protect against hazards.
- Avoid standing or working directly under the raised equipment or loads.
- If you are responsible for blocking the equipment, carefully inspect the blocking materials to ensure they are of adequate strength, size, and stability.
- Make sure the blocking materials are correctly positioned under the equipment to provide stable support.
- Ensure that the blocking materials are securely in place and won't shift or move.
- Check that the equipment is appropriately leveled to prevent any uneven distribution of weight.
- Regularly inspect the blocked equipment for signs of wear, damage, or shifting.
- Maintain clear communication with other workers involved in the task. Ensure everyone is aware of the presence of raised

equipment and any potential hazards.

- When accessing raised equipment, use proper stairs, ladders, or platforms with secure handrails and toe boards. Avoid climbing on the equipment itself.
- Be aware of your surroundings and any potential hazards.
- Familiarize yourself with emergency procedures and how to respond.
- If you notice any unsafe conditions or concerns regarding the blocking or raised equipment, report them to your supervisor or safety personnel immediately.

FINAL WORD

By following proper blocking procedures and using appropriate materials, employers can create a safer workplace and prevent potential accidents and incidents associated with elevated equipment.