

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, Uniform Building Code, and the planning departments of most of the cities in the 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.
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 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.

