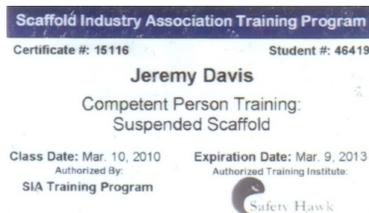


COMPETENT PERSON AS DEFINED BY OSHA



Example of competent person course completion card.

dangerous to employees, and who has authorization by the employer to stop work and take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

This term is used in a number of OSHA's construction standards. For example, the scaffolding standard in 1926.451(f) (3) requires that "scaffolds and scaffold components shall be inspected for visible defects by a competent person before each work shift, and after any occurrence which could affect a scaffold's structural integrity." Another example is OSHA's requirement that trenches be inspected by a competent person prior to worker entry to ensure elimination of excavation hazards.

Employers need to **train** and **identify** who is considered to be "Competent" in their respective line of work, and then inform all employees who is the "Competent" person(s) on the job. Just because an employee is considered to be competent in one line of work does not make them competent in all

OSHA defines a Competent Person as one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or

areas of a job.

A competent person needs:

- Training
- Experience
- Knowledge of the applicable standards
- To have the ability to identify hazards
- To have authority to take prompt action to eliminate the hazard

Under 1926.20(b), Competent Persons are also required to make frequent and regular inspections of the jobsite, materials, and equipment. In addition, the Competent Person needs to know how to conduct inspections and keep good records of their results.

Employers who provide employees with ID badges should designate on the badge if an employee is considered to be competent and in what areas they are considered to be so. For example "Aerial lifts and suspended scaffolding."

Often outside companies that offer training seminars provide wallet sized cards as proof of training. An example of a competent person course completion card is shown above. All employees should have these on their person. Please note that successful completion of a course does not by itself necessarily establish a person as a competent person.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1) A Competent Person is one who:
 - a) Is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards
 - b) Identifies if working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees
 - c) Has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate hazards
 - d) All of the above
- 2) What is necessary for one to be recognized as being a Competent Person?
 - a) Training and experience
 - b) Authority to take corrective action
 - c) Designated to be a competent person by employer
 - d) To have the ability to report on weather and let you know when it is raining & Snowing
 - e) A, B & C only
- 3) An employee should carry credentials stating they are a Competent Person in a specific type of work
 - a) True
 - b) False
- 4) A Competent Person is required to make frequent and regular inspections of the jobsite, materials, and equipment for safe use
 - a) True
 - b) False

Talk Given By: _____ Date: _____

Company: _____ Location: _____

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name	Signature

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