

Return to Work Policy

Prepared by: Allied Insurance Brokers, Inc.

Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC

Location: _____

Effective Date: 12/14/2012

Revision Number: 2

PURPOSE

This policy is in place to ensure Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC provides meaningful work activity for employees who are temporarily unable to perform all, or portions, of their regular work assignments or duties. This policy applies to employees suffering from either work or non-work related injury or illness. The goal is to allow valued company employees to return to productive, regular work as quickly as possible. By providing temporary transitional or modified work activity, injured employees remain an active and vital part of the company. Studies show that a well-constructed Return to Work Policy reduces lost time days, allows workers to recover more quickly and makes for a more positive work environment.

SCOPE

All active employees who become temporarily unable to perform their regular job due to a compensable work related or non-work related injury or illness may be eligible for transitory work duties within the provisions of this program. Return to work tasks may be in the form of:

- Changed duties within the scope of the employee's current position
- Other available jobs for which the employee qualifies outside the scope of his or her current position
- An altered schedule of work hours

DEFINITIONS

- **Transitional duty** is a therapeutic tool used to accelerate injured employees' return to work by addressing the physical, emotional, attitudinal and environmental factors that otherwise inhibit a prompt return to work. These assignments are meant to be temporary and may not last longer than 90 days, though Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC permits multiple 90-day assignments back-to-back if it is medically warranted.
- **Alternate duty** is a part of Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC's Return to Work Policy that is designed as a placement service for individuals who have reached maximum medical improvement and are still unable to perform the essential functions of their pre-injury job.

APPLICABILITY

Length of Duty

If work is available that meets the limitations or restrictions set forth by the employee's attending practitioner, that employee may be assigned transitional or modified work for a period not to exceed 90 days. Transitional or light duty is a *temporary program*, and an employee's eligibility in these reduced assignments will be based strictly on medical documentation and recovery progress.

Daily Application

An employee's limitations and restrictions are effective 24 hours a day. Any employee who fails to follow his or her restrictions may cause a delay in healing or may further aggravate the condition. Employees who disregard their established restrictions, whether they are at work or not, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Qualification

Transitional or modified duty will be available to all employees on a fair and equitable basis with temporary assignments based on skill and abilities. Eligibility will be based upon completion of the

Prepared by:

Date:

Approved by:

Date:

--	--	--	--

This Return to Work Policy is a guideline. It does not address potential compliance issues with Federal, State or local OSHA or any other regulatory agency standards. Nor is it meant to be exhaustive or construed as legal advice. Consult your licensed commercial Property and Casualty representative at Allied Insurance Brokers, Inc. or legal counsel to address possible compliance requirements.

Return to Work Evaluation Form by the employee's attending medical professional. An employee on modified duty will be considered part of the regular shift staffing, with recognition of the employee's limitations within the department.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The following responsibilities apply to various levels within the company.

- **Senior management** will ensure the policy's enforcement among all levels at Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC and will actively promote and support this policy and the Return to Work Program as a whole.
- **Supervisors** will support the employee's return to work by identifying appropriate modified assignments and ensuring the employee does not exceed the physician's set restrictions. Supervisors will also stay in regular contact with absent employees and communicate Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC's attendance expectations clearly. They are also responsible for reporting any problems with employees and this policy to the return to work manager or program supervisor.
- **Injured workers** will notify their supervisors in a timely manner when their condition requires an absence. They will closely follow their physician's medical treatment plan and actively participate in Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC's Return to Work Program, which includes following all the guidelines of this policy. Injured employees will also help supervisors identify potential options for transitional duties that they discover. While supervisors are responsible for maintaining constant communication with the injured employee, the worker also has the obligation to maintain contact with Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC about their condition and status. The injured worker will complete all the required paperwork in a timely manner.
- **Return to Work Program Manager** will be trained in understanding the physical and psychosocial aspects of disability and will also understand the nuances of Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC's Return to Work Program, policies and all associated forms. This individual will also be able to testify in court as a vocational expert if necessary. He or she will provide program leadership by facilitating communication between union officials, employees, managers and medical providers. This manager will own the responsibility of creating the Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC Job Bank and will assist supervisors with on-site problem solving.

PROCEDURE

Work Schedule

Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC will do everything in its power to tailor the restricted work schedule to the injured employee's normal, pre-condition work schedule. However, depending on the job limitations, it may be necessary for the employee to take on a specifically designed, temporary schedule to accommodate these restrictions.

Payment of Wages

If qualified authorities determine an employee's injury is work related, Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC will pay benefits and wages in accordance with the state workers' compensation statute and with the company's human resources policies. If an employee on modified duty is unable to report to work, the employee may then be charged for up to eight hours of sick leave per shift.

Employees performing modified duty on a restricted work week (during the first 90 days of workers' compensation leave) will receive payment for hours worked from the company, while hours not worked will be reimbursed according to workers' compensation guidelines.

An employee performing transitional duty for a non-work related injury or illness on a normal work schedule shall receive an hourly rate for all time worked that may not necessarily equal the full-duty hourly rate.

Employees performing transitional duty on a restricted work week following a period of Short Term Disability (STD) may receive a combination of regular pay and partial disability benefits. The employee and the Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC Human Resources Department will work out this combination on a case-by-case basis.

If employees take vacation or there is a holiday during restricted duty, they are entitled to their regular vacation selection or holiday pay as it would apply to normal, non-restricted duty.

Communication Expectations

If an employee is unable to work in any capacity and the company approves of the absences, the employee must stay in constant communication with the Return to Work Program Manager and the

direct supervisor. Each must receive an update of the employee's medical status on at least a weekly basis. Failure to do so may result in a reduction in available benefits and discipline up to and including termination.

Medical Appointments

Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC does not allow employees to schedule medical appointments that interfere with working hours. Employees may use time off for medical appointments if they have it available and if they coordinate the absence in advance with their supervisor. Non-emergency medical appointments *not* scheduled in advance may be cause for denial of time off.

The employee's physician must complete the Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC Return to Work Evaluation Form for each visit to evaluate the impairment. It is the employee's responsibility to inform Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC of his or her medical status after each doctor visit. This applies to both work related and non-work related injuries and illnesses that interfere with assigned.

Employee Procedures

1. In the event an injury or illness is work related, report it to your supervisor immediately, or no later than the end of the shift on which the injury occurs.
2. Complete and sign a Report of Injury Form.
3. Let your supervisor know that you are seeking medical treatment and obtain a Return to Work Evaluation Form. The Return to Work Evaluation form must be completed for each practitioner visit regardless of your choice of physician and regardless whether the condition is work related or not.
4. Participate in the Return to Work Program on temporary transitional work for up to 90 days while your physician and supervisor continuously review your condition.

REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE

If you are unable to return to your regular job but are capable of performing transitional duty, you must return to transitional duty. Employees who choose not to participate in the Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC Return to Work Program or follow all regulations in this Return to Work Policy may become ineligible for state workers' compensation benefits and, in some cases, refusal to participate may be a basis for termination. Unpaid Family Medical Leave will apply upon refusal and disability benefits will cease.

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

In the case of reduced work time, the Family Medical Leave and Partial Disability programs may apply to compensate for lost wages due to fewer hours. Contact the Human Resources Department for further details.

Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC

Return to Work Policy

Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC's primary goal is to accommodate injured workers by identifying or modifying jobs to meet their physical capacities and allowing them to return to work as quickly and smoothly as possible. The company is committed to individualizing return to work programs based around the individual's physical capabilities and will review all task assignments regularly to ensure duties are appropriate.

We are committed to early return to work and recognize that it speeds up the recovery process and reduces the likelihood of permanent disability. Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC employees are expected to show the same commitment to the program by following the Return to Work Policy and all guidelines of the Return to Work Program. The Return to Work Program requires a team approach, so employees are expected to cooperate with the management team, supervisors and medical staff should they ever become injured and unable to perform your full job duties.

Prior to working on any Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC job site, each employee is expected to have read the entire Return to Work Policy, which includes the following sections:

- Purpose
- Scope
- Applicability
- Responsibilities
- Procedure
- Refusal to Participate
- Family Medical Leave

If you have any uncertainty or questions regarding the content of these policies, you are required to consult your supervisor. This should be done prior to signing and agreeing to the Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC Return to Work Policy.

I am aware of and have read Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC's Return to Work Policy, and I understand the requirements and expectations of me as an employee. Should I become injured or ill and unable to carry out my regular duties, whether it happens inside or outside the workplace, I fully recognize Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC's expectations of me during my recovery. I also know that Commonwealth Scaffold, LLC reserves the right to pay less than my full-duty rate during transitional work if it is justified.

I understand that if I choose not to participate in the Return to Work Program or follow this policy's guidelines, I may become ineligible for state workers' compensation benefits and, in some cases, my refusal may be grounds for termination.

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____