

# SAFETY ALERT

## SUSPEND THE USE OF REUSABLE CONCRETE FRICTION ANCHORS

### Background

CFMEU OHS Representatives have reported the failure of a product that claims to be a portable and reusable anchorage connection. Serious injury or death is the likely outcome of a friction secured anchor becoming dislodged.

### EXAMPLES OF REUSABLE CONCRETE FRICTION ANCHORS



### Recommendations

1. According to both AS/NZS 1891.4 Fall arrest devices safe use and AS/NZS 4488.2 Industrial rope access safe use, insert type anchors are not to be loaded in direct tension (i.e. pull out). Section 3.1.2(g) of AS/NZS 1891.4 and section 5.3(a)(viii) both state the following:
  - “Where used, drilled-in anchorages such as friction and glued-in anchorages shall be placed so that the shear load is at least twice the tension load. For collared eye-bolts this translates to a pull at an angle not exceeding 20° to the surface in which the bolt is installed.”
2. Immediately audit your workplace for any anchorage system that requires friction to secure the anchor.
3. Suspend the use of all drill in anchors that require friction to secure anchor fixing to support a fall arrest system.
4. Recommend engineered designed fixing plates with positively secured bolts.
5. Review of work method statements.
6. Review the competency of the installer.

## Implementing and maintaining control measures

**WHS Regulation s37** require the control measures you implement remain effective. This includes checking that the control measures are fit for purpose, suitable for the nature and duration of the work and installed and used correctly.

**WHS Regulations 38** mandates PCBU's must review and as necessary revise fall control measures.

These include:

- When the control measure does not control the risk so far as reasonably practicable.
- Before a change at the workplace that is likely to give rise to a new or different health and safety risk that the control measure may not effectively control.
- If the result of consultation indicates that a review is necessary.
- If a health and safety representative requests a review.

**Further guidance can be found from the WHS Regulations 2011 and managing the risk of falls at the workplace code of practice.**

**For further information please contact CFMEU OHS  
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