

SAFETY ZONE

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CFMEU ALERT

FORMWORK SHUTTER & LIFTING POINTS

On Monday 31st Oct 2011, a 65 yr old Formwork Foreman was fatally injured on a project at the Queensland University Campus St Lucia, when a concrete formwork shutter being lifted by a crane suffered a catastrophic failure at the lifting points.

It would appear the shutter was being extended in height by at least the width of a sheet of form ply, and was going to be used to form a higher wall. Extra strongbacks that were not part of the original shutter design had been fitted and were some 1.2-1.5 metres higher. It is believed that the shutter was in the process of being lifted up by a crane to turn it over to fit the extra soldiers and form ply needed for the extended height, when the failure happened.

The extended strongbacks appear to have failed under the extra load exerted by the lateral force of the attached lifting chains causing the shutter to tragically fall on the worker.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure that Engineers approval is received and verified on the design and construction of all Formwork shutters.

All lifting points are be part of that approval, and a record of maintenance and use must be available for inspection at any time.

Any modifications to the original engineer approved design of any Formwork shutter must be approved and verified again by an engineer before use.

All contractors and supervisors to be aware of their obligations when making , modifying or lifting Formwork shutters.

Demand that the formwork shutters on your job are engineer approved!