



Safety alert!

September 2011

Precast Panel Safety

Recent accidents involving failure of lifter inserts on precast concrete panels have exposed widespread problems.

In response the CFMEU called all players in the industry together to implement more effective quality assurance measures. These will compel manufacturers to comply with the national code of practice and the Victorian industry standard.

A sub-committee will report to a final meeting of CFMEU safety officers and manufacturers on 20 September. New QA measures and associated improvements will apply from 1 October. Members will be advised of all details.



A rigger suffered a serious hand injury and a crane operator narrowly avoided death when a lifting insert fell out of this panel on a Charnley Vale site in Brunswick on 1 August.

Common problems include

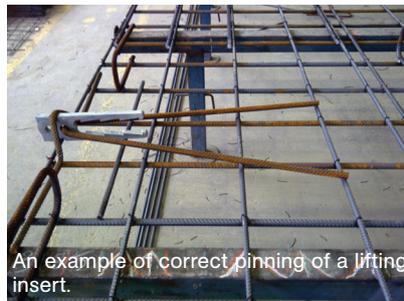


1. Use of incorrect lifting inserts

Inserts in the 10 tonne panel that fell on the Charnley Vale site should have been the longer 'hairpin' type.

2. Lifting inserts not pinned correctly

Manufacturers have been advised that inserts should have two holes to allow them to be pinned with a hanger bar.



An example of correct pinning of a lifting insert.

3. Inserts not marked with the correct information

The National Code and the Vic. Industry Standard require the following information to be exposed on the insert after the panel has been poured;

- The insert manufacturer's symbol or name
- The lifting capacity of the insert
- The insert length



4. Often, the technical information (including rigging diagrams) is not being provided to the builder or crane crew prior to the panels being unloaded on site.

From 1 October, panels not complying with the Code/ Standard and the new QA checklist standards will not be unloaded on site.