



Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

OHS alert!

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Reusable concrete anchors? Yeah right!

An on-the-ball CFMEU OHS rep recently alerted us to products that claim to be 'portable AND reusable anchorage connectors'. In our industry that's code for **DISASTER!**

These fixings are designed to anchor and secure harnesses to concrete. They are difficult to use and require an extraordinary degree of accuracy to be effective.

In other words, **EVERYTHING** has to be 100% correct, 100% of the time, for the product to work 100%. They have no margin for error.

In our industry, there is always some annoying little extra or variation that can't be avoided, making such a product unsuitable for the unpredictable construction environment.

The primary reason these products are appearing is that they can be **REUSED** – over and over again. Some employers reckon that's going to save them time and money – but at what cost? Potentially a workers' life.



Well, we say that's not on!

We must have systems of work and equipment that provide a buffer against any error or variable that is inevitably thrown our way.

Engineer-designed fixing plates (with four secured bolts) and single-use fixings for static lines are just some of the safer options readily available for securing harnesses.

We'd rather see workers' lives saved, as opposed to trying to save a bit of time and a few bucks here and there. Expediency, economics and so-called efficiency all sound pretty hollow when they end up costing a worker's life.

Don't be fooled and don't sacrifice workers' safety. If these products appear on your site, contact the CFMEU OHS Unit immediately on 9341 3444 – someone's life could depend on it!

SAFETY IS UNION BUSINESS

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