



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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