

# SAFETY ALERT

## ERECTION AND DISMANTLING OF FORMWORK

This safety alert is published following an incident on a construction site where a form worker was killed by falling formwork. The worker was struck by one-half of a steel column shutter, which was left on a poured concrete column while the other side of the shutter was removed during the stripping operation.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001* (OHS Regulation) requires employers to identify hazards, and assess and control risks at the workplace in consultation with their workers. It also requires principal contractors and subcontractors to provide, implement and maintain safe systems of work. In many cases, employers are required to develop and implement safe work method statements for hazardous construction tasks.

The OHS Regulation also requires employers to ensure that the risks associated with falling objects are controlled by providing a safe means of raising, securing or lowering plant, materials and debris that may present a fall risk.

### RISK CONTROLS

Employers must ensure that:

- the dismantling of formwork is done in a safe manner that is planned and controlled in accordance with AS 3610 – 1995 *Formwork for concrete*
- safe work methods are reviewed and amended regularly as conditions change
- all persons involved in the work are provided with appropriate training and instruction, which also covers the safe work method statements
- the risks associated with objects falling are identified and that appropriate controls are implemented and maintained
- all parts of formwork and false-work assemblies are stable and secure at all times during the forming and stripping operations, as well as during temporary storage on site.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information regarding safe systems of work for formwork can be found in:

- OHS Regulation
- Code of practice for formwork
- AS 3610-1995 *Formwork for concrete*.

#### Disclaimer

This publication may contain occupational health and safety and workers compensation information. It may include some of your obligations under the various legislations that WorkCover NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website ([www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)) or by contacting the free hotline service on 02 9321 3333.

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation