

Unmarked scaffold components

This Alert highlights the need for scaffold components to be marked in accordance with Australian Standards.

April 2010

Background

Unmarked scaffold couplers (swivel and right angle reduction couplers) that are commonly used to brace formwork frames and props were recently found on a construction site.

Since 1991, AS 1576.2 - *Scaffolding - Couplers and accessories* has required scaffold couplers and accessories to be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark.

A revision of this standard in 2010 changed the requirements for marking of new scaffold components, as follows:

- All scaffold components, except for base plates, soleplates, timber of known grade and plain tube that is not part of a prefabricated component, shall be marked with a symbol or letters to identify the scaffold manufacturer or supplier and, as appropriate, the system type.
- The marking should be impressed or embossed on the flap or body of the coupler or accessory and be visually legible after protective coating has been applied. The height of the characters shall be at least 4mm and the impressed or embossed dimension at least 0.2 mm.

Control measures

WorkSafe expects duty holders ensure:

- scaffold components manufactured after the publication of AS 1576.1 (except base plates, sole plates, timber of known grade and plain tube) are marked in accordance with AS 1576.1 -2010
- any scaffold component not marked is removed permanently from service and the supplier notified.

Scaffold component suppliers are also expected to specify to their manufacturers that components currently being manufactured are marked in accordance with AS 1576.1 - 2010.



Example of unmarked scaffold coupler

Contact details

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For more information on occupational health and safety, go to WorkSafe's website: worksafe.vic.gov.au

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