



## NO 7 SAFETY OF DISPLAY EQUIPMENT IN SHOPPING CENTRES

JUNE 97

The purpose of this Alert is to inform the occupiers of workplaces to which the public have access, and the designers, manufacturers and installers of equipment at these workplaces, of the need to ensure that equipment is properly secured against falling at all times.

### BACKGROUND

An electronic advertising sign located in the mall area of a shopping centre toppled over causing fatal injuries to a small child. The floor mounted sign weighed almost 170kg, stood 1900mm high and had base dimensions of 1200mm x 200mm. When originally installed the rear casing of the sign was secured to a masonry pillar by two expanding masonry anchors. The masonry anchors pulled out of the pillar allowing the sign to topple over.

Note: a similar child fatality was reported in Queensland in May 1996 involving a pedestal wash basin located in a showroom.

### PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

In order to prevent a similar tragedy, those involved in the design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of equipment should ensure that:-

- Equipment located in public access areas is securely attached so as to be safe when subjected to reasonably
- foreseeable forms of accidental impact, misuse or abuse
- Fastening devices are installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- Where expanding masonry anchors are used, reliance on the pullout capacity of the anchor is avoided wherever possible (the manufacturer should be consulted on the

incorporation of supplementary fixing materials where pullout capacity needs to be assured.)

- Fastening devices which both wrap around and are secured to the supporting structure are employed as the preferred method of attachment.
- Wherever practicable, anchorage points are visible, in order to facilitate regular maintenance inspections
- Regular inspections are carried out on all fastening systems.

### STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Sections 19, 22, 23, 24 and 24A of the Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986, set out the duties of employers, self-employed persons, occupiers or owners of workplaces and the designers, manufacturers installers and of equipment.

Adopting the preventative measures outlined in the Alert, in conjunction with effective hazard management practices, will assist these people in meeting their obligations under the Act.

For further information, please contact;

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