

Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

OHS ALERT

INSPECTION OF PRECAST PANELS/ ELEMENTS PRIOR TO UNLOADING & INSTALLING ON SITE

Precast panels and elements are sometimes delivered to site in a faulty condition.

The newly released Australian Standard for precast concrete panels and elements, AS3850, requires element (ie. Panel) assessment prior to lifting on site.

Prior to lifting, all elements/panels need to be checked for any defects which may affect their structural integrity, especially:

- Misalignment of lifting inserts.
- Loss or incorrect orientation of lifting inserts.
- Poor compaction of concrete around inserts.
- Inadequate concrete strength
- Cracks in the element passing through or close to lifting inserts.¹

Where any of these defects are found, authority to proceed with the lift and

installation must be made by a competent person (ie. engineer), who must provide a written authority to proceed.

Erection crews are often put under pressure from builders to lift questionable panels/elements. If you (panel crews) are in any doubt and are not satisfied that the panel is safe to lift – Don't! Ask for a full engineering assessment and notify your CFMEU Rep immediately!

¹ AS3850 part 2 at clause 4.4.4



Safety is union business.

STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. COME HOME.