



OH&S Alert!

February 2010

Death-traps

Following the fatal accident in South Melbourne on January 15, in which a worker fell seven storeys to his death, cantilevered chariots are **BANNED**.

In the interests of worker health and safety, and consistent with Section 4 of the OHS Act (2004) - which states, "*the importance of health and safety requires that employees be given THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PROTECTION against risk to their health and safety...*" - the CFMEU has determined the following hierarchy of control for the use of chariots.

Hierarchy of Control

- No work is to be carried out using CANTILEVERED chariots
- No type of chariot is to be used closer than three metres from any edge where a fall of two metres or greater exists
- Any work that is required to be undertaken on balconies or edges of buildings should be done behind purposefully designed and engineered screens, or
- Perimeter or external scaffold
- If mobile scaffolds are used, they must be secured to the building or structure to prevent tipping over.



If the above cannot be achieved, both the equipment and the personnel required to do the work must be positively restrained and prevented from falling; however this must be the very last option after all others have been thoroughly exhausted and **proven not to be possible!**

Any use of a harness **MUST** include full authorised training in its use and limitations and a full rescue system must be approved and in place before use. In this scenario, or any other proposed system that is not consistent with the above dot points, the CFMEU **MUST** be involved and approve its use prior to the work commencing.

If in any doubt call your union for advice and assistance on 9341 3444.

The CFMEU OH&S Unit gratefully acknowledges the support of Incolink.
Authorised by Bill Oliver, Secretary, Tommy Watson and John Setka, Assistant Secretaries of the CFMEU
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