

Safety and health alert

03/06 Tric Bloc™ concrete median barrier failure

Incident

A single 2.5-tonne lifting anchor on a concrete precast Tric Bloc™ Median barrier failed while suspended during transportation around site by a mobile crane, causing the 1.7 tonne concrete element to fall to the ground.

The incident did not result in injury or damage to plant, but the injury/damage potential was high.



Factors to consider

- The lifting anchor was designed for a 2.5-tonne load.
- Dynamic loads when performing a pick-and-carry operation can be 3 to 4 times that of lift only operation.

Recommendations

When precast elements are used at a workplace, steps need to be taken to ensure that people who use, manoeuvre and handle them are not exposed to hazards. This can be done by:

1. Conducting a risk assessment prior to the transportation or movement of precast elements, which should include design considerations.
2. Providing information in relation to the product, detailing the safe use limitations, tare weight and safe transportation. This can be supplied with or affixed to the product.
3. Ensuring precast elements are transported in accordance with the designers/manufacturers' specifications.
4. A competent person checking the precast elements prior to lifting for defects, excessive wear, lifting and transportation risks.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email safety@docep.wa.gov.au