

LESSONS LEARNED



Incident ID	AU.NCISSH.ACTUAL.120922.00175587	Incident Date	13 September 2022
Incident Circumstance	Fall of Material – Wind Blown	Workplace Activity	Formwork
Operation	NCIS Henderson	Issued By	Dawid Sobczyk

Description of Incident

A subcontractor worker was accessing site from a covered walkway when he was struck in the upper body by a sheet of 18mm structural plywood (2400mm x 1200mm) that had been dislodged during an adverse weather event. The worker suffered injuries that required transportation to hospital, where he was admitted.

It was identified that the sheet of formply had dislodged from a penetration cover that was installed over the southwest mechanical riser on level two. The mechanical riser void was approximately 1,700mm wide and 7,675mm in length. Handrails were installed around the void to prevent a fall from heights, with formply penetration covers installed to prevent fall of materials and weatherproof the levels below. Inspections found that the formply sheets installed over this void were fixed with nails to timber bearers, which were screwed to the concrete slab.

It is noted that the building design included three other similar mechanical risers. Inspections following the incident confirmed the penetration covers over these three voids were secured with screws to the timber bearers, which remained intact during the adverse weather event.



Key Learnings

The Workplace Delivery Code provides that penetration covers are to be constructed in a manner that maintains its integrity during adverse weather conditions and requires the covers to be fixed with bolts or screws. Non-trafficable penetration covers, installed for the prevention of falls of materials and/or for weather proofing, must be securely fastened and adhere to the above requirements.

When selecting the material and the methodology for securing penetration covers, the following is to be considered:

- The use of appropriately rated screws / bolts, installed to the manufacture’s requirements;
- Material selection to be based on penetration size and manufacture’s specifications; and
- Wind loads, including uplift.

GMR Reference

GMR 4.2 - FALL OF MATERIAL/OBJECT