

December 18, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Walers Bracket

This letter is being sent to all formwork contractors to clarify the WorkSafeNB position in the proper usage of “Walers brackets” when used as scaffolding. In order to reach a decision WorkSafeNB considered related legislation, manufacturer’s instruction for use and a site visit.



Having reviewed the manufacturer’s instruction for use, it was noted that at least one manufacturer did not allow “walers brackets” to be used as scaffold brackets. They were to be used only to straighten the form walls and not as a work platform, as doing so would contravene paragraph 9(2)(a) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which states:

*Every employer shall ensure that the necessary systems of work, tools, equipment, machines, devices and materials are maintained in good condition and are of minimum risk to health and safety when used as directed by the supplier or in accordance with the directions supplied by the supplier.*

During an incident investigation at a project site, a health and safety officer also observed that the walers brackets system did not meet the minimum width requirement as required by section 131(1)(h) of General Regulation-Occupational Health and Safety Act, which states:

*An employer and a contractor shall each ensure that a scaffold has a platform that is at least 500 mm wide.*

As noted above, while walers bracket systems may not be designed to be used as scaffolds, some manufacturers offer scaffold brackets that can be used as work platforms or scaffolds provided they are installed and used according to the manufacturer's specifications and meets the requirements of the scaffolding section of the General Regulation (Sections 131-134).

In conclusion, it is imperative that employers and contractors familiarize themselves with the systems and tools being used on the project site and that if scaffold brackets are used, that they be used according to instructions provided by the manufacturers and that they comply with the requirements of the regulations.

Should you have further questions, please contact Eric Brideau-Health and Safety Officer-Chief Compliance Office at (506) 867-0539.

Richard Blais,

Director Chief Compliance Office