

## Unmarked scaffold couplers

This Alert highlights the need for scaffold couplers to be marked in accordance with Australian Standards.

May 2010

### Background

Unmarked scaffold couplers (swivel and right angle reduction couplers) that are commonly used to brace formwork frames and props were recently found on a construction site.

Since 1991, AS 1576.2 - *Scaffolding - Couplers and accessories* has required scaffold couplers and accessories to be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark.

A revision of this standard in 2009 changed the requirements for marking of new scaffold couplers and accessories, as follows:

- Each coupler and accessory, excluding base plates, shall be marked with the manufacturer's or supplier's name or trademark, and a code traceable to a manufacturing batch.
- The marking should be impressed or embossed on the flap or body of the coupler or accessory and be legible after protective coating has been applied. The height of the characters shall be at least 4mm and the impressed or embossed dimension at least 0.2mm.

### Control measures

WorkSafe expects duty holders ensure:

- all scaffold couplers and accessories, except baseplates, are marked
- couplers and accessories manufactured after the publication of AS 1576.2 -2009 meet the marking requirements of that standard
- any scaffold coupler or accessory not marked is removed permanently from service and the supplier notified.

Scaffold coupler suppliers are also expected to specify to their manufacturers that couplers currently being manufactured are marked in accordance with AS 1576.2 - 2009.



Example of unmarked scaffold coupler

### Contact details

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For more information on occupational health and safety, go to WorkSafe's website: [worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://worksafe.vic.gov.au)

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