

RECERTIFICATION OF UNDOCUMENTED OR UNIDENTIFIED ANCHORS OR SYSTEMS

To ensure you are meeting your duty under the WHS Act 2011, both the operator and the owner of plant must ensure that all anchors and systems are compliant and suitably documented. Relevant documentation for older installations may not exist, or due to a change in ownership or body corporate, documentation may have been lost over time.

The requirement of documentation is guided by AS1891.4 and AS4488.2 and Section 19(3)f of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

*the provision of any **information**, training, **instruction** or supervision that is necessary to protect all persons from risks to their health and safety arising from work carried out as part of the conduct of the business or undertaking*

Note: requirements of training & supervision are discharged through operator competencies and work procedures.

Further duties under sections 22, 25 & 26 may be applicable for design, supply and installation of plant.

When an undocumented anchor or anchorage system is identified, all effort should be made to trace the plant back to the original installer or manufacturer. If this is possible then copies of relevant information may be available which can be supplied to the owner of the plant.

Where the system cannot be traced back, further investigation is required to ensure that the anchor is suitable for use. At this stage it should be discussed with the owner of the plant whether it is viable to engage an engineer or propose a new installation. Factors influencing this decision could include perceived age of system, environment, costs, access, work methods etc.

As a minimum, the following information should be maintained by the person in control of the plant, and should be made available to authorised personnel who will be using the anchors or system:

- Manufacturers plant specifications
- Installation instructions
- Anchorage plan
- Users manual
- Installation certification

When consulting with an engineer due to original documents not being available, the engineer should provide you with a report stating the results of their investigations and what the expected specifications are of the installed anchor(s), and whether the current installation is compliant with the performance requirements of current legislation, cop's and standards.

On receipt of the engineers report, the owner of the plant should then consult with a competent person to develop an anchorage plan, instructions for use and to provide final certification of the anchor(s).