



Safety Bulletin Number: **0000002**

Issued October 20th, 2020 by Department of Labour and Advanced Education

180° and 90° Bends in Reinforcing Bars Deemed Inadequate as a Means of Impalement Protection

Legal information

Issued pursuant the Section 21 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations

Summary

The following information is important to anyone working in or selling to an industry that employs the use of reinforcing bars.

The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) has issued a safety warning about using 180° and 90° bends as a means of impalement protection. Various studies show impalement occurs when reinforcing bars with either 180° or 90° bends are struck by an object similar to an average sized adult human that is dropped from a distance of 3m or more. To mitigate this hazard the use of troughs or approved caps are recommended.

Employers are reminded that Section 21 of the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations requires an employer to ensure an adequate means of fall protection is used. This includes ensuring that an employee cannot come in contact with any object which may cause injury from any height above an unsafe surface.

As of the date of issue of this bulletin, reinforcing bars with 180° and 90° bends will not be considered a safe surface and the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Division will deem these bends unacceptable as a means of protection against impalement. Troughs and approved dowel caps will continue to be acceptable forms of impalement protection.

Sources

Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI)

-Safety Note: Institute Position on Use of 180° and 90° Bends for Impalement Protection

http://resources.crsi.org/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&fileID=3DE9B7BA-92B0-824C-F1136DAB2BB09C26

Workplace Health and Safety Regulations

<https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/laws/regu/ns-reg-52-2013/latest/ns-reg-52-2013.html>

Contact for bulletin queries

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