



Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

# Guidance Note

July 2011

## Use of Base Plates under scaffolds and formwork

**The definition of a base plate under the Australian Standard 1576 for 'Scaffolding: General Requirements' is: '... a plate to distribute the load from a vertical load-bearing member to the supporting structure...' Fundamentally, this is required to enable both scaffolding and formwork to remain stable, even when exposed to different load combinations.**



The minimum dimensions of a non-adjustable base-plate must be 150mm x 150mm, with a minimum thickness of 6mm. Attached to the centre of the upper surface of the base plate, there must be a shank or spigot not less than 50mm long and not less than 16mm in diameter (as per Australian Standards 1576.2 and 4576).

Adjustable base plate extensions must not exceed 600mm, and when fully extended, must have a fixed stop enabling at least 150mm of spigot to remain in the tube at all times (AS 1576.2 and AS 4576).

The CFMEU expect base-plates to be provided under all appropriate scaffolding and formwork configurations, to provide the highest standards of safety, stability and structural integrity under all load combinations.

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