



CMEIG Media Release

CMEIG members want safe design and safe use of earthmoving equipment

In recent years there has been a trend for Australian Standards to fall behind safe design practices and equipment operators are continually seeking greater flexibility in the operations of their mobile equipment. This has led to the need for the association to develop new guide notes for specific equipment items independent of WorkCover and Australian Standards agendas.

For instance, the current version of AS 1418.8 *Cranes, hoists and winches - Special purpose appliances* was published in 2002 and allows lifting lugs to be attached to buckets used for lifting small items on site. Members have been concerned for sometime that they have been pressured by buyers to weld these lugs onto buckets at the detriment of safe practices. Buckets are recognised as a consumable item and, as a result, the structural integrity of the bucket is reduced as it wears, leading to the potential that the lug may fail at some point during operations.

To overcome this problem, the association released last year a position paper titled *Fitment of lifting lugs to excavator / wheel loader buckets*. This paper outlines the various reasons why lugs in buckets should not be installed on equipment in Australia. If you still have these lugs in existing buckets, it is advised that they be removed immediately.

A series of papers are being developed to allow them to be taken up by WorkCover Authorities and Australian Standards as benchmarks for safe design and operation of equipment. The second position paper is titled *Quickhitches* and the association is finding that operators are not using the safety pins because they have to climb in and out of the cabin and walk to the quickhitch whenever they change attachments. The poor application of quickhitches is likely to result in an incident at your work site.

These two position papers are available on the CMEIG web site at www.cmeig.com.au/engineering/papers/ and several other papers are being developed to set the standard of safety for the supply of construction and mining equipment in Australia.

Media Release – 4 August 2005 by the Construction & Mining Equipment Industry Group Inc
No embargo

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