

## **PCI Plant and Erection Alert Regarding Braces from the QA Supplier Committee (02/14/19)**

Recently, there was an accident reportedly resulting from mismatched bracing components. Apparently, the part of the brace that was the inner sleeve was for a shorter brace. When the lock pin was installed it didn't engage this inner tube, the wall panel started to move out and, because there was no engagement of the inner tube, the panel fell.

This alert is intended to inform both Precasters and Erectors of potential problems when mixing brace components from different manufacturers and/or brace components from different brace types.

Braces are manufactured and tested by the brace manufacturer with specific components. Changing or modifying these components may compromise the structural integrity of the brace.

Brace applications often require a post-installed bolted connection, and we strongly recommend using the Brace Manufacturer's guidelines for allowable post-installed bolt types and anchorage requirements.

Furthermore, when braces are installed in conjunction with coil inserts and coil bolts, one must make sure that they are compatible. Coil products from different manufacturers should not be interchanged unless a system has been implemented to verify compatibility between components. (please refer to previous Coil Alert dated 11/26/2016)

If braces are damaged during or after installation, only original equipment manufactured components are to be used to repair these damaged braces. Under no circumstances should parts between different brace manufacturers (i.e. Brace shoes) or different brace types be interchanged.

The QA Supplier Committee will be working with the brace manufacturers to publish a brace inspection document and inspection guidelines, which will indicate when a brace is to be taken out of service for repairs.

This process will take some time, so it is highly recommended that you contact the brace manufacturer if you should experience any damages or have questions about your braces or their proper use.