

CFMEU SAFETY GUIDANCE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PROTECTION OF HOLES AND OPENINGS (PENETRATIONS)

Regulation 3.54. Holes etc. in floors, duties of employer, states; a person who, at a workplace, is an employer, the main contractor, a self-employed person or a person having control of the workplace must ensure that any hole or opening (other than a lift well, stairwell or vehicle inspection pit) with dimensions greater than 200 mm x 200 mm, but less than 2 metres x 2 metres or with a diameter greater than 200 mm but less than 2 metres, must be protected.

In concrete floors, if practicable, wire mesh that is at least 4 mm in diameter, have maximum apertures of 75 mm x 75 mm, be embedded, at least 200 mm in the edges of the surrounding concrete and be embedded either in the upper half of the slab with a minimum concrete cover of 20 mm or in the lower half of the slab with a minimum cover of 30 mm.

Holes or openings in any **other type of (non-concrete) floor** must be covered with material of adequate strength to prevent entry by objects or persons and be fixed securely to the floor and marked in clearly legible lettering with the words "DANGER — HOLE BENEATH"

The suitability of polystyrene as a material of adequate strength in any particular situation must be considered carefully prior to use. For example, if scissor lifts are to be used on the floor, the polystyrene will be incapable of supporting the load and could collapse. Petrol and many solvents often used on construction sites will dissolve polystyrene.

Holes or openings covered with wire mesh must not be used as a work platform. When installing services, only the part of the wire mesh that allows access for installation can be removed. The cover should be modified to fit around the installed service.



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