

IM-95-21

Scaffolding, Shoring & Forming Institute

1300 Sumner Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 241-7333

AN OPEN LETTER

TO: All Users, Owners and Distributors of Ground Based Scaffolding

RE: The Use of Scaffolding as an Anchorage for Personal Fall Arrest Systems

The Scaffolding, Shoring and Forming Institute (SSFI) is an industry association comprised of designers and manufacturers of scaffolding, shoring and forming products. For many years, members of the SSFI have been familiar with, and have been very active in, the engineering and standards development work associated with fall arrest equipment.

The undersigned manufacturers of ground based scaffolds wish to make you aware that the scaffold components which they manufacture have not been designed to accept the forces imposed on an anchorage point in an arrested fall. In our experience, we have found that such forces can cause individual components to fail, the entire scaffold to overturn, or both, resulting, in *serious injury or death*.

While we continue to search for acceptable alternatives, we want to emphasize that in the interests of the safety of those who work on or around scaffolding, we recommend fall arrest anchorage points confined to locations designed for that purpose by qualified persons. If you are already doing so, we are advising you to **IMMEDIATELY** discontinue the practice of using any scaffold components as an anchorage for fall arrest purposes.

A- I PLANK& SCAFFOLD MFG., INC.

WERNER CO.

BIL-JAX, INC.

PATENT CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS

SAFWAY STEEL PRODUCTS

SGB CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.

THIEL MANUFACTURING

UNIVERSAL MANUFACTURING CORP

VANGUARD MANUFACTURING

WACO SCAFFOLDING & EQUIPMENT