

Number 16-03

Safety Alert – Wall Mounted Shelving

1 BACKGROUND

Some workers in an office in the CT Building arrived to work on a Monday morning to find that 2 large wall mounted shelves loaded with various equipment, books, paper and other items had fallen away from the wall during the weekend. It appears that the wall anchors used for securing the shelving to the wall many years ago may have been insufficient for purpose or incorrectly installed, and eventually failed under load.

When the incident was investigated a number of issues relating to the installation of wall mounted shelves were noted which need to be communicated e.g.:

- ✦ Staff should inspect any wall mounted shelving in their area as detailed below and take action if required;
- ✦ Fixing of any items to work surfaces that requires penetration of the surface (drilling, fixing screws etc) should only be undertaken by Infrastructure and Facilities Services in response to a Maximo request being submitted. Under no circumstances should staff perform this work themselves.

2 ACTION

- ✦ Staff should visually inspect any wall mounted shelving in their work area for any shift in placement away from the wall and then carefully unload the shelves and gently test the shelves by hand for any movement indicating that the mount may not be secure;
- ✦ If any wall mounted shelving feels or appears to be insecure, the shelf should be left unloaded, marked as unsafe for holding items, and a Maximo request should be submitted so that Infrastructure and Facilities Services can inspect the shelving and rectify any issues;
- ✦ Consideration should always be given to the type, amount, placement, and weight of any items placed above ground level to ensure that overloading of shelving and other structures does not occur and that new hazards are not created by heavy items placed where they could fall from height.

Photographs of incident area and equipment:

1. Wall mounted shelves found dislodged from wall.
2. Wall anchor plug which may have been insufficient for purpose or incorrectly installed

