

DN 30.8.93

Tying up rigging safety standards

A TARANAKI man is a member of a trans-tasman committee with the task of putting scaffolding safety standards here and in Australia to the test.

New Plymouth's Paul Cunningham joins two other New Zealanders and three Australians on a body that will study scaffolding and rigging practices in both countries.

Standards NZ and Standards Australia have given the committee the brief to establish common standards in all facets of the industry.

"Both countries have always adopted minimum standards of safety and quality of product," Mr Cunningham said. "While that did suffice, it was really only a code of practice. What this committee will produce will be more definitive and be common to both countries."

Working in conjunction with the Australians "all gets down to CER.

"The end result will be a greater ability for the New Zealand industry to expand its operations into Australia and overseas markets."

The main areas the committee would examine included standards, size and quality of componentry and the development of a common syllabus for training.

Mr Cunningham brings 15 years of experience to the committee. His firm, Cunningham Construction, has been closely involved in the development of the Taranaki petrochemical industry through the 1980-90's.

Other New Zealanders on the committee are New Zealand Occupational Safety and Health representative Phil Armitage (Wellington) and David Macready (Auckland) of scaffolding firm Boral Acrow.