

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Reply to the Attention of:



DEC 17 1999

Mr. Gus Strats  
Summit Anchor Company  
5406 Duke Court  
Frederick, MD 21703

Dear Mr. Strats:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has reviewed your letter of October 22, 1999, regarding permanent deflection of anchors for fall arrest. Specifically, you ask if the term "capable of supporting 5000 pounds" means that an anchor cannot have permanent deflection when loaded to that amount.

Your interpretation that some deformation which does not result in fracture or failure of the anchor would be permissible is correct. Failure of the anchorage should be considered any deformation which could drop the load. Please note that if loading an anchor to any amount results in permanent deformation, the anchor is unsuitable for future use, and must be replaced.

I hope this letter answers any questions you may have. Should you require further assistance or information, please contact Mr. Arthur Buchanan of the Directorate of Compliance Programs on (202) 693-1850.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Galassi*

for Richard Fairfax, Director  
Directorate of Compliance Programs