

# HAZARD ALERT

**Operable Walls  
9 February 2012**

**REFERENCE:**

OHS&W Act 1986 s19, 20 & 21

OHS&W Regulations 2010

CSH&WSA Document No. 14 – Hazard Management Procedure

CSH&WSA Document No. 15 – Plant Management

**OBJECTIVE:**

To ensure where worksites have operable / folding walls, they are inspected and maintained on a regular basis to prevent them from dislodging and collapsing.

**BACKGROUND:**

An incident occurred at a college where one section of a large Operable Wall came loose from its connection point and fell.



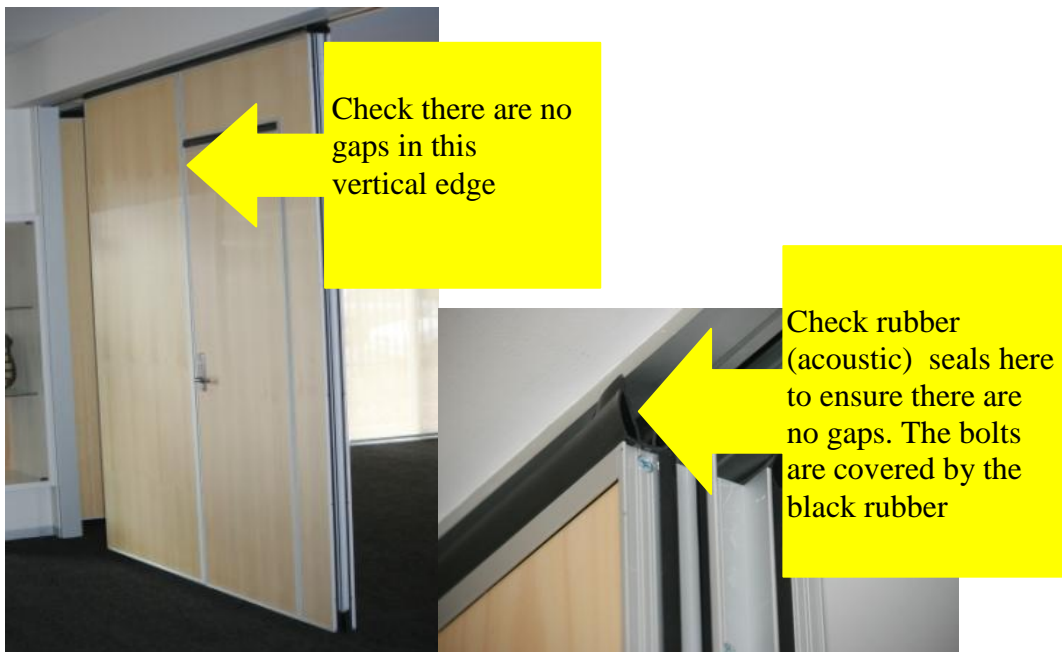
This is the attachment point that is found in the tracks. It is a bolt with a thread. The panels are attached to this.



## PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

### Inspections

- All operable / folding walls and/or doors are to be inspected on a regular basis. Prior to each use, the person opening / closing the operable/folding Walls must conduct a quick visual inspection.
- A formal inspection must be performed on a quarterly basis or as recommended by the manufacturer/installer. Things to look for are:
  - Gaps between the vertical edges of where the panels butt up to each other (when the wall is in place)
  - Gaps between the top acoustic seals (when fully extended in the case of retracting seals) and the underside of the overhead track.
  - Check that the panels are all straight and not dropping by checking at floor level that they are all equally level.



### Maintenance

- Operable / Folding walls and/or doors to be included on your sites maintenance schedule. The service should be conducted by **someone who has knowledge of operable walls**. The service/maintenance should ensure:
  - Walls are functioning as originally intended
  - All moving parts are lubricated
  - Bolts, washers, threads etc are in good repair.

**WARNING: Not all operable / folding walls are the same. There are different manufacturers. Your product may be different to what's been described above so please check with the company that installed your system**

**FOR ENQUIRIES OR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE  
CONTACT YOUR OHS CONSULTANT**