# Contractor Alert

### Last update: April 2024. First Published: September 2018

## Suspended Plaster Tile Ceilings in Schools

A number of schools built in the 1970s and 1980s have **suspended plaster tile ceilings** (refer to photos below). In recent years it has been reported a number of tiles at different schools have **fallen down, in some instances resulting in near miss incidents.** Investigations showed that the tiles may have been disturbed by tradespersons installing services within the ceiling cavities. The consequences of these tiles falling can be **catastrophic** as each plaster tile typically weighs around 12 kilograms.

In **2016**, the Department of Finance arranged for all suspended plaster tile ceilings at schools to be resecured. This included the **application of a sealant** between adjoining tiles to **minimise lateral movement**. **Subsequent** to this, a program of work has undertaken to progressively replace plaster tile ceilings to eliminate the safety risk to building occupants, including replacement of around 2,500 plaster tile ceilings across the public school portfolio.

Where Contractors identify plaster tile ceilings which have not yet been identified and replaced, it is requested Contractors immediatelynotify the Department of Finance of these ceilings and proceed with caution should priority works require disturbance of the ceiling.



A ceiling with a tile pattern

Description automatically generated with medium confidence