



Work Safety Alert **Trapped by the Spiked Shafts of a Machine**

1. Date of Accident : August 2015

2. Place of Accident : A factory

3. Summary :

While a worker was cleaning the spiked shafts of a machine, he was trapped by the revolving spiked shafts and passed away subsequently.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/Employers :

To prevent workers from being endangered by the dangerous parts, such as revolving beaters, spiked cylinders or drums of a machine while engaged in machine cleaning work, proprietor/employer should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the hazard of all dangerous parts of the machine and the nature of operation;
- formulate safe work method and procedures, and specify and provide suitable equipment or tools to be used with due regard to the result of the risk assessments and the machine manufacturer's instructions;
- provide effective guarding to all dangerous parts of the machine and avoid workers from making access to the dangerous parts during the cleaning work;
- where access to the machine with temporary removal of the guarding to the dangerous parts cannot be avoided for the cleaning work, ensure the machine is switched off with its power supply isolated beforehand;



- adopt a permit-to-work system to ensure that all safety measures are in place, including rendering the machine dead by isolating its power supply, before conducting the cleaning work;
- display warning notices at prominent positions to alert workers to the hazards of all dangerous parts of the machine;
- provide the workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Handbook on Guarding and Operation of Machinery](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance \(Section 6A\) - General Duties of Proprietors](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

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