



Work Safety Alert Trapped by Moving Parts of a Concrete Batching Plant

1. Date of Accident: October 2015

2. Place of Accident : A concrete batching plant

3. Summary:

While a worker was using a shovel to clean up debris around the revolving conveyor belt of a concrete batching plant, the shovel was dragged into the nip between the revolving belt and a guiding roller, causing him to be trapped in between the belt and the shovel handle. The worker passed away on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/Employers:

To prevent workers from being endangered by any dangerous/ moving parts of machinery during cleaning of the machinery and its vicinity, the proprietor/ employer should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments taking into account the operation of the machinery, the nature of work, the tools being used and the working environment to identify all associated potential hazards;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the cleaning work with due regard to the result of the risk assessments;
- taking adequate steps to avoid any persons being endangered by any moving parts of the machinery, including providing effective guarding to all dangerous parts and/or fencing off danger zones where moving parts exposed with suitable barriers;

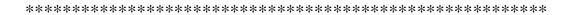




- where temporary removal of the guarding/ barriers to the dangerous parts/ exposed moving parts cannot be avoided during the cleaning work, adopting a permit-to-work system such that, among others, the power supply of the machinery is switched off and locked so long as the work is in progress;
- displaying warning notices at prominent positions to alert workers to the hazards associated with the operation of the machinery;
- providing 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
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

5. Reference:

- Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹
- Handbook on Guarding and Operation of Machinery¹
- A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (Section 6A) General Duties of Proprietors¹
- Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹



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¹ Click to view document





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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.