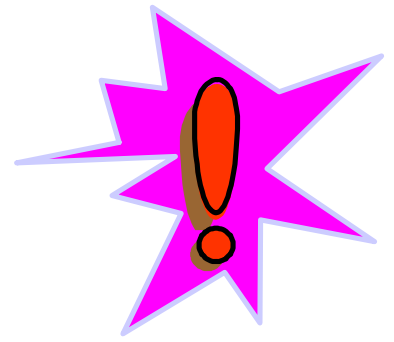


Italy : fatal accident after fall into sawing equipment in a pulp mill



Date : 17 January 2009 at 15:30hrs

Site : Production unit of wood logs to feed the pulp mill of Duino (Burgo Group . Italy . close to Trieste). Property and management of this unit, adjacent to the Burgo mill, have been outsourced a few years ago to the company of Monfalcone Harbour from which the wood trunks are sourced.

Victim : Man of 49 years old, married with 2 children; Foreman of the operating team in charge of the sawing unit.

Injuries : Death

Facts (*): Initial inquiries were under way to determine the causes of the accident. For process reasons related to the Duino mill, wood trunks have to be cut into logs of 1 metre length. The sawing is done inside a 10m tall structure. IP was supposedly on a platform at height when he apparently fell into the sawing equipment. The emergency stop system of the saw failed for reasons not yet clear. There were no witnesses, and the accident was only discovered when various parts of his body were found inside the log shuttle feeding the pulp mill.

(*): Look out ! , all this information came from local and national Italian newspapers. Until now we haven't been made aware of any official communication from the authorities, companies or paper confederation concerning this matter.

- RISK ASSESSMENT – EQUIPMENT GUARDING – EMERGENCY SYSTEM CHECKING – HAZARD SIGNS –



Comments: We should feel concerned by this type of accident !!!

- Pulpers screws
- Crusher for wood chips to feed biomass boilers
- ò ..

Access to this equipment and to ramps, conveyors or hoppers to feed them have to be guarded, regularly inspected, and fitted with the appropriate emergency stop systems. Nobody should be in a position where they can be drawn inside this type of equipment, by lack of concentration, because of a collapse, due to the flow of material feeding the equipment, or to an equipment failure itself.

Gilles Botalla-Battistina
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