

29 September, 2008

SAFETY ALERT

Serious Crush Injury on Winder

Over the weekend of 20-21 September an operator was seriously injured after being pulled into a nip point on a winder.

A tail had been fed through the winder and the sheet was established on the spindle. The machine speed was increased while the operator was feeling the sheet for creasing with his hand on the spindle. The operator's arm (from fingers to just below the elbow) was pulled into the nip point between the reel drum and spindle. The emergency stop was activated by the operator, releasing the pressure and allowing him to pull his arm out. The machine speed was at approximately 60 metres/minute when it was stopped.

The operator has crush injuries but no broken bones. His treatment is continuing.

Investigations by the company and the government agency are underway. In the meantime a number of interim measures have been introduced to minimise chances of this occurring again.



Pulp & Paper Industry

Occupational Health Safety & Environment Unit

148 - 152 Miller Street, West Melbourne 3003 Ph: (+61) 03 9274-9235 Fx: (+61) 03 9274-9284

Pulp & Paper Industry
Occupational Health, Safety
& Environment Unit

A joint venture sponsored
by

AMCOR
AUSTRALASIA



Kimberly-Clark Australia

PaperlinX



Established 1991

Interim Controls

- Once the sheet is on the spindle, operators and assistants must not place their hand on the spindle to feel the paper until there is at least 300mm of paper on the spindle (as measured from the spindle to the outer surface of the building reel).
- The 'mushroom' (the tool used to feed the paper) must always be used to assist paper into the nip. Hands must not be put near the nip while the machine is in crawl or running under any circumstances.
- Access to the pit under the winder nip while the machine is running is prohibited.
- The practice of putting loose paper into the nip to take up slack when making a join must cease immediately. Operators and assistants must feed through in the usual manner and allow the paper to fall on to the floor until the sheet squares up and takes up the slack itself. To minimise the amount of paper this will generate, care should be taken to square up the sheet as much as possible prior to feeding. **Under no circumstances can loose paper be put into the winder nip to take up slack.**

Once the investigation is complete and findings are released a further Safety Alert may be produced and circulated.

For further information please contact:

Denise Campbell-Burns
National Coordinator
Pulp and Paper Industry
Occupational Health, Safety & Environment Unit
(03) 9274-9236