

# Safety and health alert

## 07/03 Employee cut by machine blade

### Incident

A meat worker from a labour hire company, working at a host employer's workplace, received a deep laceration to his left palm when his hand slipped from an Allen key and made direct contact with the sharp blade of a denuding machine. The incident happened while the employee was loosening bolts that secured the blade to the machine.

The dismantling of the plant was not carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### Factors

- The possibility of hands being cut when removing sharp blades from machines.
- The need for labour hire companies and host employers (principal contractors) to ensure that employees receive adequate instruction, training and supervision in respect to all dangerous tasks.
- The importance of assembling and dismantling machinery in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

### Recommendations

- That both labour hire company and host employer ensure that adequate hazard identification and risk assessment is undertaken in all workplaces (in accordance with regulation 3.1) to ensure safe systems of work are provided for employees.
- Where employees are provided by a labour hire agency, that the labour hire agency review procedures for hazardous work to ensure that the skills of their employees will allow them to complete the required work safely.
- That inspection, repair, maintenance, alteration, use and cleaning of plant be carried out having regard to procedures recommended by the designer or manufacturer of the plant.
- That employees required to carry out hazardous work receive an appropriate level of instruction, training and supervision in respect to that work. In the case of employees provided through a labour hire company, it can be agreed that general instruction and training is provided by the labour hire company and specific instruction, training and supervision is provided by the host employer. However, the labour hire company must ensure that specific instruction in respect of hazards at the host employer's workplace, training and supervision is provided to their employees

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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