

Safety and health alert

05/94 Accident involving transfer car and kiln

Incident

A male employee was trapped between the kiln vestibule wall and an entering kiln car. Amputation of the left leg and serious internal injuries resulted.

The employee was working on his own at the time of the accident and his exact activities within the kiln vestibule area are unknown. However, it is known that about 15 minutes before the accident he was intending to top up gravel in the kiln car guides at the kiln entrance.

Factors

The door and kiln car controls were set to automatic and movements were not obvious.

The safety lock out to the kiln door, which would have prevented the transfer car from entering, had not been engaged.

The emergency stop system was not effective once the kiln car had commenced its travel into the kiln vestibule.

Recommendations

The emergency stop systems should be upgraded so that employees anywhere in the area of automatic machinery are able to stop the plant at any part of the cycle in an emergency.

Lock out procedures for entry into any potentially hazardous areas should be implemented and rigidly enforced.

Audible warnings should be provided along with a delay immediately prior to automatic machinery being activated or changing direction.

Further Information

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

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