

Safety and health alert

38/00 Person killed in mixing machine

Incident

A 41-year-old woman received fatal injuries when the jumper she was wearing became entangled on a bolt protruding from the slow rotating spindle of a mixing machine. The woman was pouring bags of flour into the mixing machine. During the process she dropped a bag into the mixer and tried to retrieve it by reaching into the mixing bowl.

The protruding bolts on the spindle caught her jumper, which quickly became entangled, tightening around her causing asphyxiation.

Factors

1. Wearing of loose or ill fitting clothing near moving machinery.
2. Lack of adequate guarding of the spindle.
3. Insufficient and inappropriately placed emergency stop buttons.
4. Inadequate risk assessment of the mixing machine operation.

Recommendations

1. Ensure all moving parts are adequately guarded in accordance with AS 4024.1-1996 Safeguarding of Machinery.
2. Provision of counter sunk screws or bolts into the spindle of the mixing machine would have alleviated the need for guarding.
3. Strategically locate emergency stop buttons so that they are readily accessible to machine operators.
4. Loose or ill fitting clothing not to be worn where the danger of entanglement exists from moving parts of machinery.
5. Risk assessment to be undertaken by a competent person.

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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