

Phil Chambers

From: Phil Chambers at Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. [phil@strategicsafety.co.uk]
Sent: 19 December 2014 09:35
To: phil@strategicsafety.co.uk
Subject: News and Legal Updates from Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.!



Strategic Safety Systems Ltd. Newsletter

December 2014
Issue 1

Dear Philip,

Welcome to the first December edition of our newsletter. What we aim to do is to provide information which is of use to you and to let you know the activities in which we have been involved. We also aim to let you know of any incidents that have occurred in, and legislation that is related to, the areas in which we work. We realise that, with the broad spectrum of our activities, some may not be relevant to you but we hope you find the rest useful.

Regards,

Philip Chambers
Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

IN THIS ISSUE

[SEASONS GREETINGS](#)

[CLOSE UP GAPS IN IMMEDIATE GUARDS](#)

[DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT BY POOR H&S DOCUMENTATION](#)

[CONFUSION IN WORDING ON TENDERS](#)

[INCIDENTS AND COURT CASES](#)

[DAILY UPDATES](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Our website](#)

[More about INTACT](#)

[Health, safety, environmental support](#)

Happy Christmas

As this will be the last newsletter this side of Christmas, can I just wish all of you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

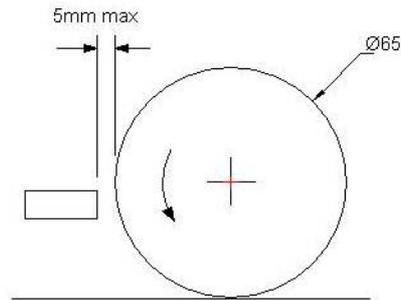
I hope that your business enjoys the upturn that we, at SSS, are experiencing. Long may it last!

Now for the more serious stuff.

Ensure that gaps on guards are closed up

I've always used the value of 6mm as a maximum value of the gap between a fixed nip guard and a cylinder or roller. This is the figure given in HSE guides such as Printing Information Sheet 1 and makes sense as fingers are larger than this.

However, there has recently been an accident where an operator on a laminating machine had his little finger drawn into the gap shown below. We don't know the precise gap as the nip guard was removed to release his finger, but the slack in the fixing holes allow the gap to be between 1mm and 5mm. Although the roller is made of very stiff rubber, it deformed so that his finger became trapped.



It may be that this is a freak accident as there are thousands of such immediate guards in place and I am not aware of any similar accidents.

However, it makes sense for all those who have machinery with such guards to adjust them so that the gap is as small as possible.

Don't get caught out by having poor risk assessments

Just had another instance where a company had an accident and then decided it would be a good idea to do something about risk and other assessments which they admitted were "somewhat lacking". And this is from a company who you would otherwise think of as being on the ball.

Don't get caught out like this.

The things to do are to:

Carry out a simple and sensible set of risk assessments including those for fire, substances hazardous to health, etc.

1. Define control measures including those to keep you in control (such as periodic interlock checks).
2. Implement a method of getting these across to the people who are affected.

Common mistakes are:

- Going completely over the top with assessments. You end up with a voluminous manual that nobody uses.
- Only looking at control measures that need to be done, and ignoring maintenance controls.
- Having a pristine set of risk assessments, but nobody on the shop floor knows anything about them.

[See SSS health and safety services](#)

Confusion about the words "health & safety policy" and "accreditation"

I've just finished some support for two companies who are tendering for work and some work repairing a 'health and safety policy' for another client.

The same erroneous questions come up, indicating that clients, and some health and safety consultants, sometimes don't have a clue:

Requirement 1: Are you accredited to ISO 9001?

The truthful answer which everyone should give is "No". What the client really means is "Are you certified to ISO 9001?" Certification bodies are accredited, not you.

Requirement 2: How do you update your health and safety policy and how do you train employees on your health and safety policy?

This reflects a lack of understanding about what is meant by "policy". A health and safety policy is a short statement of intent and bullet points on what you will do.

Example 3: Massive health and safety policy

This is really an extension of what I've said above. Not for the first time, I've been asked to rework a "health and safety policy" provided by a consultant. In this case it was 80 pages of close type. The client, unsurprisingly, found it unworkable.

[See blog about this.](#)

Incidents and court cases

Warbutons employee caught in conveyor

Baking firm Warburtons Ltd was fined £6,162.50 (inc. costs) on 27 November after a maintenance worker seriously injured his hand when it was drawn into a conveyor

[See details](#)

Worker was unaware that safety interlock had been overridden and lost fingers as a result

Heaps, Arnold and Heaps Ltd., a Rotherham manufacturing firm was fined £8687 (inc. costs) after an employee's fingers were crushed and severed in a machine where the guard interlock had been deliberately overridden.

[See details](#)

Worker trapped in laundry machinery because of lack of interlock

Cleantex Ltd., a Telford laundry company, was fined £8,250 (inc. costs) after a worker got caught in machinery.

[See details](#)

Daily updates

Don't forget, there's lots of useful information that is highlighted typically daily on the SSS Twitter and Blog sites.

[Follow us on twitter](#)

[Visit our blog](#)

I hope you have found this information of interest. If you have any suggestions of other information you would like to see, please [contact me](#).

Whilst the intention of this newsletter is to be useful, we realise that most people are plagued by spam and should you wish to prevent future issues being sent to you, unsubscribe using the link below.

Regards,

Philip Chambers

Strategic Safety Systems Ltd.

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