



SUBJECT: The Bodyguard

RECIPIENTS: Insert All Council Services (including schools)

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Machine guarding incident results in amputation

A plasterboard recycling company has been sentenced after a worker became entangled in the unguarded tail drum of a conveyor. A worker was cleaning around a conveyor when he put his arm into the moving machinery without turning it off. His left arm became entangled. The worker suffered a spiral fracture and an open wound to his left upper arm. Surgery to restore the blood supply to his arm was unsuccessful resulting in amputation of the arm.

Investigating, the HSE found the company had failed to ensure the guard that had been in place on the conveyor was working and could not be easily removed.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11 (1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £45,000 with £6,247.25 costs

After the hearing, HSE inspector Carol Downes commented: "This case highlights the importance of ensuring that dangerous moving parts of machinery are guarded.

"The incident could so easily have been avoided by having suitable guarding on the machine and appropriate safe working practices for cleaning."



If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:

Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)