



**SUBJECT:** I'm no longer all fingers and thumbs!

**RECIPIENTS:** All Council Directorates

**ISSUE DATE:** Feb 2019

**REF:** HSB 132

## Two injuries at food manufacturer lead to £200k fines

A food manufacturer has been sentenced following two separate incidents where workers became trapped in moving machinery.

In March 2016, whilst working for food manufacture at its poultry an employee trapped their thumb in a moving shackle shortly after being shown how to remove chicken intestines. As the line was running, they were pulled away from the emergency stop cord and when it moved past a fixed gate their thumb was severed.



### Isolation procedures

In August 2016, an employee entered an area of the factory that should have had the power isolated before cleaning activities commenced. The safe system of work was not being followed and the shackle line was still running when his finger became trapped. As he could not reach the emergency stop his finger was severed.

Investigations carried out by the HSE found that 2 Sisters Company had failed to ensure that measures were in place to mitigate the consequences of a worker becoming entrapped in a shackle in the first instance and that they failed to ensure safe isolation procedures were followed in the second.

The Company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Works Equipment Regulations 1998 in relation to the first incident and was fined £200,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,031.83. In respect of the second incident, the firm pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974 and was fined £74,000 with costs of £4,386.52.

After the hearing, a HSE Inspector said: "These incidents could so easily have been avoided had appropriate controls been in place. Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

### 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)