

INDUSTRY ALERT

Rewinder Machine, Operator Entanglement

In June 2004 an employee received a fractured arm, lacerations and bruising after becoming entangled in an in-running nip point at the rotating core on a 100" Rewinder.

Rewinder operation involves a paper sheet being drawn from a primary reel mounted at the rear of the machine. The sheet is rolled through a series of slitters and rewound as reels of paper of various widths in saleable configurations.

This Rewinder is estimated to be up to 60 years old. It has been in its current position since 1994.

After running a series of testing trials, the crew were required to revert to the set up they had previously been using. The operator was running the set-up on the Rewinder when he noticed the trim start to 'dish' or form a cone shape. There is no trim removal system at this Rewinder. Using his previous experience, the operator slowed the Rewinder and began to attach some tape to the core beside the trim in order to prevent it collapsing.

The operator was wearing a glove at the time and it adhered to the tape, drawing him into the machine. The operator travelled over the rotating core and then the emergency stop button was activated by a crew member.

The operator received a fractured arm, lacerations and bruising. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment.

Contributing Factors and Root Cause

The incident investigation determined a series of contributing factors to this incident.

- No Rewinder trim control.
- Informal procedure for the control of trim edges.
- Operator intervention to stabilise trim edge during rewinding operation.
- Tape adhered to glove.
- Operator entangled.

The root cause of the incident has been traced to the design of the Rewinder.

Control Measures

Immediate control measures

- Installation of temporary guarding with full interlock to both 100” and 60” Rewinders.
- Extensive modification to speed and braking systems of both Rewinders.
- Trim removal system added to the 100 “ Rewinder.
- Review of all Hazard and Risk Assessment work in the area.

Images of the temporary guarding are included with this Industry Alert.

Long term control measures

- Trim removal system to be added to the 60” Rewinder.
- Permanent interlocked guarding to the front of both Rewinders.
- Current guarding, interlocks and controls at the rear of the Rewinders to be upgraded in line with Risk Assessment outcomes.

Further Information

For further information please contact:

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