

Safety Alert!

- **Location :** IP UK Ltd, Scotland, Paper Machine (3)
- **Date:** Tuesday 13th January 2009 @ 03:15pm
- **Employee:** Machine Assistant (33 years of age)
- **Employment date:** October 2007 (current position)

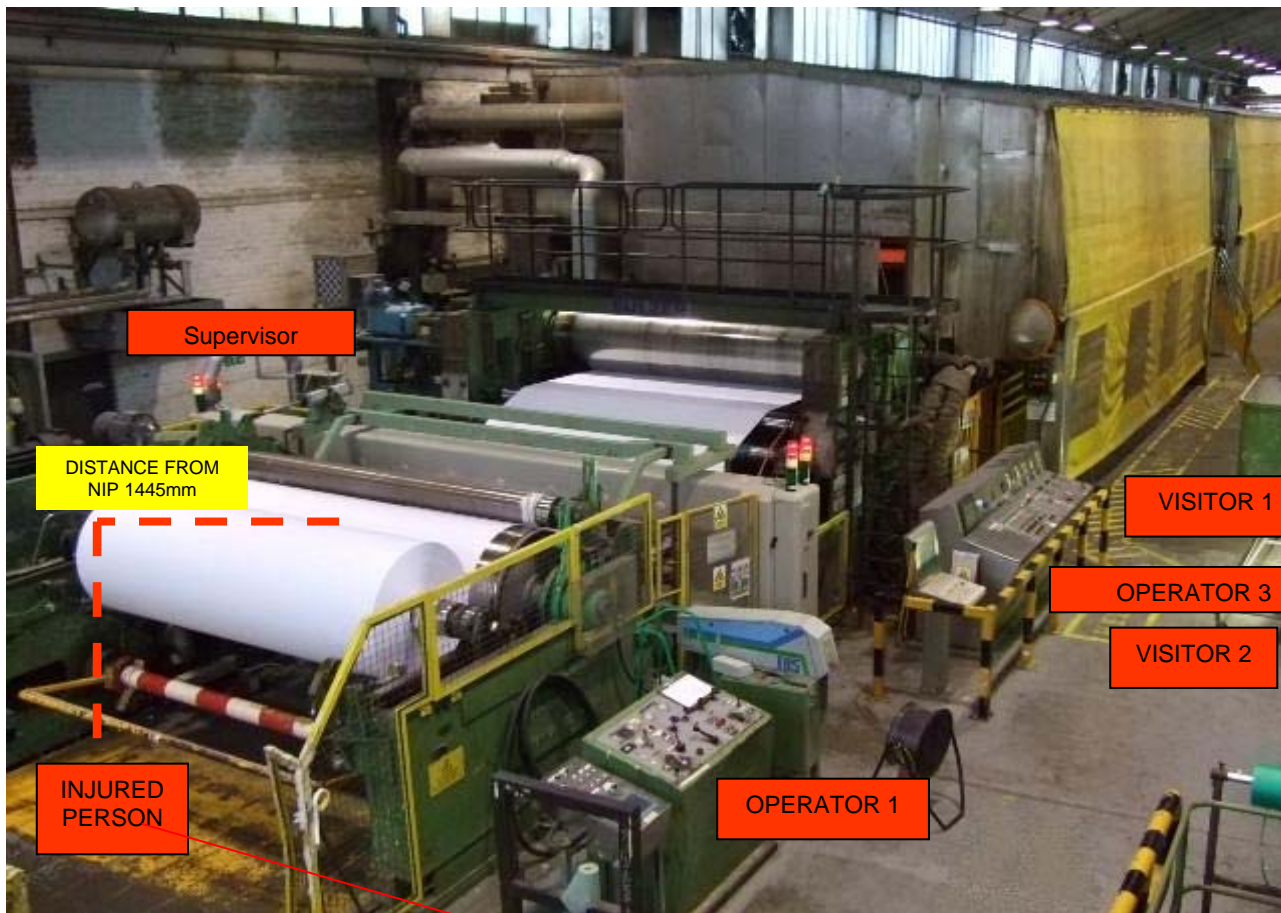
- **ACCIDENT CIRCUMSTANCES:**

Following a paper break at Paper Machine (3), an employee sustained a serious injury to his lower left arm. The injured person was tidying up paper tails at the reel up area. During the process of sheet transfer to the new shell, the paper failed to blow up into the nip point aided by the tail feeding device. The injured person then attempted to throw the sheet over by hand. During this process it appears he became entangled within the heavy gram sheet, which resulted in his arm being pulled across the shell and into the nip point between the reel shell and the reel-up drum.

A colleague hit the emergency stop button and released the secondary machine arm, so as to release the shell from the drum. The injured person was released from the machine and given first aid treatment until an ambulance crew arrived, he was then stabilised and immediately transferred to hospital. The medical staff at the hospital performed a surgical operation which resulted in amputation of the lower left arm at the elbow.

See page 2 for pictorial layout of the event.

See page 3 for corrective actions and learning points.



•KEY POINTS

- MACHINE BREAK
- HEAVY GRAMMAGE GRADE 160 GSM
- VERY SMALL SHELL (not as illustrated)
- BLOWER SYSTEM / SHEET FEEDING DEVICE INEFFECTIVE AT HEAVY GRAMMAGE
- OPERATOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO FEED SHEET TO SHELL
- TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTING SHEETING INTO NIP POINT
- PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED, HOWEVER NOT FULLY EFFECTIVE ON HEAVY GRAMMAGE
- CURRENT GUARD CREATES EFFECTIVE DISTANCE (AT KNEE LEVEL)

Corrective actions / Learning Points

Preliminary investigation has led to the following corrective actions :

- Immediately put in place a procedure to ensure risk is reduced at PM3 reel up (this was done before machine was restarted)
- Review of risk assessments for all nip points on PM3 machine and at PM4
- New procedure for blowing full sheet on to shell
- Complete safety briefs with all crews making sure that they are fully aware of the incident and all corrective actions
- Investigate the possibility of increasing air flow and pressure to improve the reel up blower system
- Repainting of the floor at reel up guard with message clearly stating “NO ENTRY”
- Review guard design - consider as a design which creates a physical barrier rather than just a distance obstacle.
- Review and standardise tools associated with this task.