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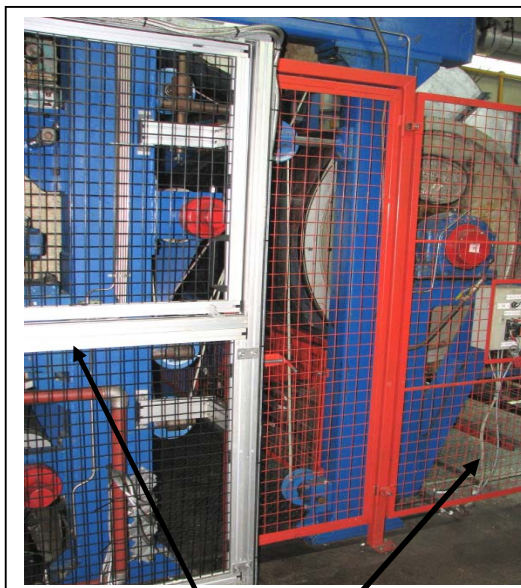
Paper Machine – Fatal Accident

The Incident

On Tuesday 28th April, a 45 year old man was fatally injured while attempting to remove broke paper from a drying cylinder. The deceased had worked at the paper mill for 17 months.

Details of the incident

The deceased was attempting to remove paper from a drying cylinder and became trapped between the drying cylinder and a dryer fabric roll. This area is protected by a gate guard which is secured by a padlock to prevent access when the paper machine is running. The deceased went through the gate to enter into the area inside the paper machine while it was running. He died later in the hospital from his injuries.

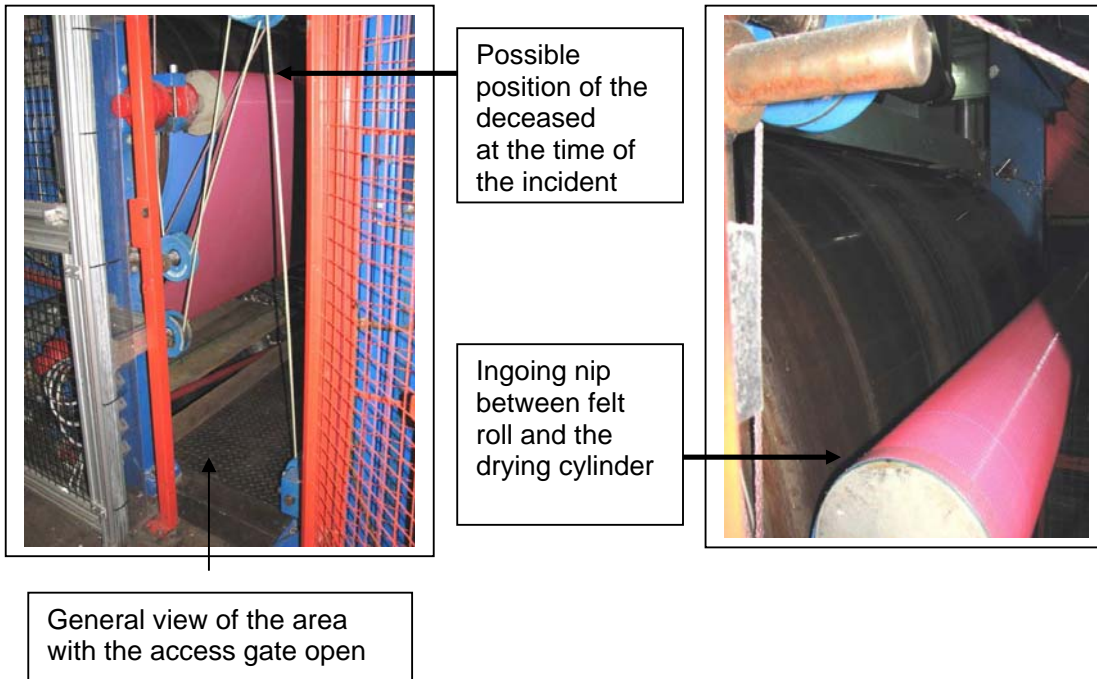


Front close fitting fixed
face guards



Start of the after-
dryer section

Access gate



Following the incident, all production activities on the site were stopped and representatives from the Police and Health & Safety Executive (HSE) came to the site to investigate the cause.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 29th April, the HSE stated that, based on the information that they had gathered, and subject to the following action agreed with the HSE, production activities could commence.

- The system for control of keys used to unlock safety guards would be changed to ensure access to hazardous areas is prevented.

HSE investigations into the root cause and exact circumstances surrounding the incident, with the full co-operation of the company are still ongoing.

In the meantime the following actions will be taken;

- A complete review of guarding will be carried out to identify where improvements could be made.
- Replace padlocked guards with either fixed guards, or interlocked guards, where access is required on a regular basis.
- Review operator training procedures for non-routine tasks to ensure that they are clear.

CPI and Unite the Union – Actions for consideration at all paper mills

All companies are strongly advised to review their current operating procedures against the above information, in particular

- a risk assessment must be made on all areas where there is a likelihood of manual intervention.
- care must be taken that the risk assessment is for both standard and non routine operations e.g. always consider, machine running without a sheet, heaviest/lightest grammage, maintenance operations, abnormal conditions etc.
- where such a situation is identified then immediate action must be taken to eliminate the risk using BS EN standards 294; 1992 (safety distances to prevent danger zones ...) EN 349:1993 (Minimum gaps to avoid crushing of parts of the human body) EN 1034: 2005 (Safety of machinery for the design and construction of paper making and finishing machines), as a means of ensuring that you are working to an established standard.
- review of guarding standards around all machines, involve safety representatives and operators in the process.
- have in place a robust auditing system to ensure that all guards are working effectively and are fit for purpose.
- take into account human behaviour (stress, fatigue, perception of risk, information contained in safe systems of work) etc....
- review training arrangements to ensure all operators are fully trained to complete the tasks expected of them.

We should never operate "**one step from disaster**" by relying on only one line of defence, especially if that line of defence relies on, during the duration of the task a single human being getting it 100% right. 100% of the time.

Making Paper Safely: Principles of machinery guarding

Fixed (enclosing) guards

A guard is "fixed" if it needs a tool to remove it.

Fixed guards which guard the dangerous parts but which are designed to allow limited access, e.g. for clearing broke cleaning etc, are more effective in preventing danger.

If a fixed guard has to be removed more than once a week, for example for maintenance, it is often better to replace it with an interlocked guard.

Interlocking guards

An interlock guard has a device – usually a switch – which prevents the hazardous machine parts covered by the guard being started up until the guard is closed.

Interlocking with guard locking is required if, on opening the guard, the dangerous parts take some time to run down. Guard locking ensures that the guard cannot be opened until motion has ceased.

Please note: None of the above actions for consideration, implies or confirms that these were contributory factors to the incident. They are merely pointers for companies to consider. Investigations are still ongoing and until completed the only factual information available has been supplied by the company in the details of the incident.