



Significant Incident Report No. 205

Subject: Worker injured by moving parts on automatic rotary sample collector

Date: 19 August 2014

Summary of incident

A worker operating a 12-canister automatic rotary sample collector in an outload facility identified that the bag inside one of the sample canisters was not in the correct position. The worker opened the top inspection hatch and put his left arm into the canister to adjust the bag. At this point the sampler automatically rotated one increment. The worker activated the emergency stop button using his right hand when he heard the sampler start. However, his left arm was trapped between the fixed frame of the sampler and the moving canister, and he received crush injuries.



Example of 12-canister automatic rotary sample collector showing the top inspection hatch

Direct causes

- The worker inserted his arm into the sample collector where it was exposed to moving parts.

Contributory causes

- Although there was an automatic isolating switch on the door to the canister recess, the top inspection hatch was not similarly protected. This inspection hatch (guard) was not locked as required in the manufacturer's instructions.
- The worker was new to this plant and was not under direct supervision at the time of the incident.
- The worker had not been assessed as competent before being assigned to operate the sampler.

Actions required

Mine operators are reminded of the importance of maintaining a safe system of work for tasks carried out in the vicinity of energised plant. They should ensure that:

- all reasonably foreseeable hazards associated with the plant are identified and, so far as is practicable, workers are not exposed to those hazards
- manufacturer's instructions for the safe use of plant are available and understood by those using them
- workers are adequately supervised to enable them to perform their work safely
- workers are assessed as competent before operating plant.

Further information

Visit www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety for information on occupational safety and health in the resources sector.

This Significant Incident Report was approved for release by the State Mining Engineer on 19 August 2014