

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 93
Issued 26/09/2016

Bench Grinder

Incident

This alert has been issued following an incident where a worker's thumb got pulled into a bench grinder resulting in surgery. Contributing factors to the incident were that the worker was wearing gloves, the large gap existing between the wheel and the tool rest as well as the work piece being too small to be used in the grinder.

Pre-operational checks

- Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional
- Do not operate if guards are missing or faulty
- Ensure the wheels do not touch the work rest and that the gap between wheel and rest is no greater than 1.5mm - 2mm or as per OEM.
- Check the wheels are running true and are not glazed or loaded
- Check the condition of the wheel and replace / report if required

PPE Required

- Safety glasses to be worn
- Safety boots
- Long hair restrained, close fitting/protective clothing must be worn
- Hearing protection
- Gloves, rings and jewellery **must NOT** be worn



Operational

- Stand to the side of wheels when starting up
- Let the wheels gain maximum speed before starting to grind
- Use the correct wheel for the material being ground
- Slowly move the work piece across the face of the wheel in a uniform manner

Don't

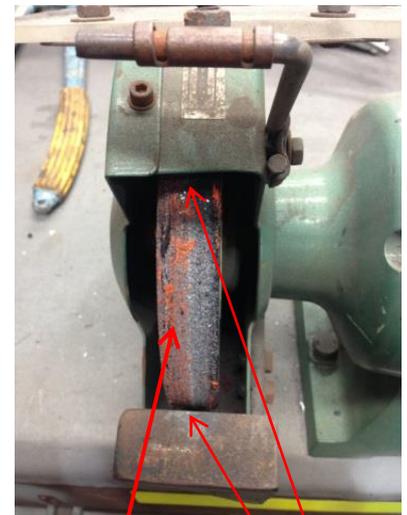
- Do not use faulty equipment. Immediately report any suspect machinery
- Do not hold work piece with gloves, cloth, apron or pliers
- Do not grind on the side of the wheel
- Do not hold small objects by hand
- Never leave the machine running unattended
- Do not bend down near the machine while it is running
- Never force the work piece against a wheel.

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- For further information contact Brett Teasdale, Compliance Manger Hunter Valley (02)4978 9830



Wheel in poor condition and grooved

Gaps too big between wheel and guard and wheel and tool rest