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## Pasaban Coiler Accident

### Pasaban Coiler Incident

It has been reported that an incident has occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 where an operator became caught between, the hydraulically operated retaining arm, and the web discharge end of the air shaft which supports the cores on a Pasaban coiler. The incident resulted in a crush thigh injury.

### Background Information

In order for the product to be ejected from the air shaft, the retaining arm retracts horizontally from the air shaft. When the start-up sequence commences the retaining arm extends, re-engaging the air bar. It was during this start-up sequence that the operator was injured.

### Initial Investigation

The IP was operating a Pasaban Coiler. He activated the automatic sequence that shuts a back side guard and extends the support arm for the air bar. For some reason (to be investigated) it is understood that the IP entered the area and was caught between the support arm & the air bar.

The mill with approval from the local HM Inspector, changed a switch to a "hold to run" to eliminate the entrapment risk and made the task single operator only.

As a result the Mill is reviewing operating procedures on this and all other similar machines.



### Further Information

The exact causes of the accident are still under investigation by the mill, however users of similar machines should carefully examine their risk assessments to consider if their current level of guarding protects against operation of dangerous parts of machinery when a person is within a danger zone.

Companies are reminded that the use of fixed or interlocked close guarding is preferable to distance guarding in most circumstances, since it eliminates the possibility of people being able to work inside guard enclosures, however there are times when distance guarding may be the only practical solution. In these circumstances it is essential that companies consider carefully **"Where do people go to work and what do they do when they get there?"**

For example, if it is possible for a person to remain inside an interlocked enclosure while a machine runs up to speed then consideration should be given to additional safeguards such as remote sensing devices or additional localised guarding to prevent injury.

Although this was not a reeler or slitter incident, you may find it useful to refer to *"Rewinding Paper Safely: safe use of reeling and slitting machines"* to help you decide on guarding standards.

<http://www.paper.org.uk/hands/machinery/Rewinding%20paper%20safely.pdf>