



CETANZ

# ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT # 001

## Employee's hand caught in rotating drum of Soil Processor Machine

**Actual consequence:** Significant Injury - Cut to right hand, requiring hospital treatment

**Potential consequence:** Potential restricted use of fingers through tendon damage

### **What Happened**

- Employee was sieving out soil using the soil processor machine
- Employee noticed soil deposited on crossbar underneath the rotating drum of machine
- Used hand to reach under machine to remove deposited soils from bar
- Hand was caught between stationary cross bar and the bar on the rotating drum (see photos below)



### **Initial Determination of the Root Causes**

- Inadequate guarding of underside of machine
- Rushing to get job completed by end of day
- Failure to comply with safe operating procedures

### **Immediate Actions**

- Employee received medical treatment at local A & E, followed by treatment at hospital to check, clean and suture wound.
- Incident investigated by a team of employees from business and independently investigated by Worksafe New Zealand.

### **Immediate risks / learnings / corrective actions**

- Soil Processor machine requires additional guarding.
- Need to carry out a risk assessment of all machinery used in the lab and implement controls around the unguarded equipment.
- Complete program to ensure that all machinery is guarded to the AS/NZ 4024 standard.
- WorkSafe issued prohibition notice for Soil Processor Machine.

### **WorkSafe NZ Investigation outcome / learnings / recommendations**

- Laboratory had almost completed a major guarding project, the soil processor was assessed to be low risk and was last on the list. The Laboratory had substantial EHS systems and a high level of staff participation.
- Training records were not completed at the time of training and direct supervision was not provided until sign off.
- WorkSafe decided not to prosecute in this case due to the substantial recent improvements at this Laboratory.
- WorkSafe issued an Improvement Notice that suggested the following:
  1. Complete Risk Assessment of all equipment and tasks.
  2. Complete guarding program
  2. Improve staff training in Hazard ID
  3. Improve policy statement in regards to who can train and when the technician can be signed off.



## **Completed Soil Processing Machine Guarding**

- Once Worksafe approved Soil Processing Machine guarding plan, prohibition was lifted and Lab was able to use machine again.



## **Other Information**

- Incident occurred on the 10 September 2014 and prohibition notice was lifted on the 21 November 2014.