



CETANZ

ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY ALERT # 004

Fingers crushed between drop weight and anvil of a Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (Scala)

Possible Consequence:

- Significant Injury – Possible de-gloved end of finger/s, loss of nail and crushing of bone, requiring hospital treatment, resulting in disfigurement.
- Permanent loss of movement in finger/s.

Scenario

- Technicians carrying out a standard Scala test using equipment pictured below.
- Technicians trying to catch the anvil as it drops to speed up testing.
- Technicians not using handle and placing fingers between anvil and drop weigh during test.





Possible Root Causes

- Rushing to get job completed.
- Improper training and supervision.
- Incorrect technique.

Immediate Actions

- Laboratories carrying out such work should ensure that a, job hazard analysis (risk analysis) and or Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) has been undertaken/created and all staff understand the hazards involved with this task via training.
- Staff should be assessed by senior Laboratory staff authorised to do so and signed off as competent.

Immediate risks / learnings / corrective actions

- Ensure handled versions of the equipment are used and that staff are correctly trained and that the training highlights that all body parts are kept away from the drop weight when it strikes the anvil.
- All technicians should be reminded to take sufficient time and rest breaks when testing, to ensure that they are not rushing on the job.