

SAFETY ALERT



ACCIDENT AND NEAR MISS WITH CEMENT AGITATOR

INCIDENT

The driver of a concrete agitator truck badly hurt two of his fingers when he was washing down the loading hopper and fins of the cement agitator of the truck.

He was taken to hospital. One finger had to be amputated, and the other needed stitches for a deep cut.

This accident may have resulted in fatality had the driver's arm been drawn into the pinch point.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The driver climbed the loading hopper ladder to wash cement from the bowl fins. He put a hose into the agitator bowl. The hose was caught by the fin at the edge of the bowl, which turned upwards. The hose and the driver's fingers were caught in a pinch point between the loading hopper and the rear of the bowl as the bowl's fins turned.

INVESTIGATION

The driver's injuries came from the hose and his hand being pulled into a pinch point by the turning bowl of the agitator. The pinch point area was unguarded. It had not been recognised as a hazard.

Putting the hose into the opening beside the loading hopper exposed the driver to the pinch point.

A mesh guard was put over the opening (shown on the attached photograph). However, with this type of guarding, a hose and even a finger could still be caught in the pinch point as the bowl turned. A flat steel plate was then put over the opening as guarding. Inspection and hosing can still take place, more safely, through the loading hopper.

RECOMMENDATION

Adequate guarding should be fitted so that such accidents do not occur.

Consideration should be given to fitting agitator trucks with flat steel plate guarding over the agitating bowl's opening beside the loading hopper. This would prevent access through that opening, but would still enable inspections and hosing of the bowl to be carried out through the loading hopper.

APPROVED

R Regan
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAFETY OPERATIONS

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Discharge chute from batch plant conveyer above loading hopper.

Loading hopper

Area where hosing was taking place (previously unguarded).

Batching platform where hosing normally done on surface.



Loading hopper.

Pinch point where fingers caught.

Outer end of bowl fin.

Guard fitted after the accident.