

# Driver loses finger tip when cleaning rotary valve



Logistics SHE Alerts

## what

- A driver who had unloaded a bulk container, was cleaning out the rotary valve with pressurized air. He noticed some pellets trapped in the valve. He switched the rotary valve into neutral and while trying to remove the pellets by hand, the rotary valve suddenly turned and chopped off 1 cm of one of his fingers.
- The driver was taken to hospital for surgery.

## why

- The driver had removed the safety grid and placed his hand in the rotary valve. Due to a malfunction of the control switch, some hydraulic pressure allowed the blades to turn.
- The unit had not been switched off completely with zero power.
- Although the driver had had issues with the equipment in the past, he had never reported them.

## learning

- Unsafe behaviour: ***the driver knew what he should not do, but he did it anyway.***
- Cleaning of rotary valves must be done with the safety grid in place.
- Never rely on the control switch but always de-energize rotary valves if you need to clear items or product from them.
- All technical issues must be reported so that immediate action can be taken.

Rotary valve without safety grid



Rotary valve with safety grid

