

Driver lost 3 finger tips when cleaning rotary valve

O&P UK – off site

Logistics SHE Alerts



Major Distribution incident

what

- While preparing a Bag In Box container for discharge at the customer site, a driver introduced his hand into the rotary valve outlet.
- The driver was not aware that the rotary valve was switched on. Although the outlet was fitted with a fixed guard inside, the revolving blades of the valve cut the phalanges of 3 fingers of his right hand.
- The driver self-banded his hand and continued working. Only 20 minutes later, after consulting a colleague, an ambulance was called. The customer was only made aware of the incident when the ambulance left the site.
- In the hospital, the driver received sub-amputation of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th finger,
- Only 9 days after the incident, Ineos O&P was informed about the incident when a customer complaint was received.

why

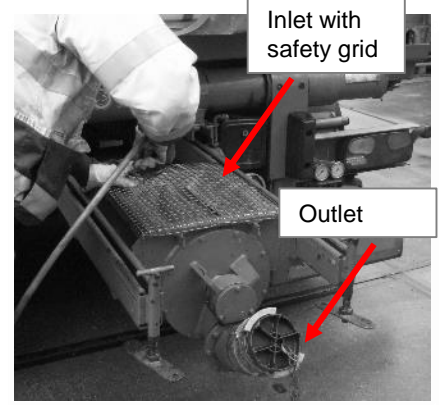
- Before arriving at the customer, the vehicle had a flat tyre. While 'levelling up' the trailer to replace the tyre, the driver inadvertently, and without realizing it, moved up the lever to activate the rotary valve.
- Once at the customer, while setting up the discharge equipment, the driver noticed some plastic granules in the outlet of the rotary valve.
- The driver did not realize that the rotary valve was already in motion, and he put his hand into the outlet to remove the granules.
- The driver was working alone and preferred to call a colleague while he continued the discharge in order to "avoid problems with the customer".
- The driver, working for a sub contractor, was experienced and had performed this type of discharge for several years.

learning

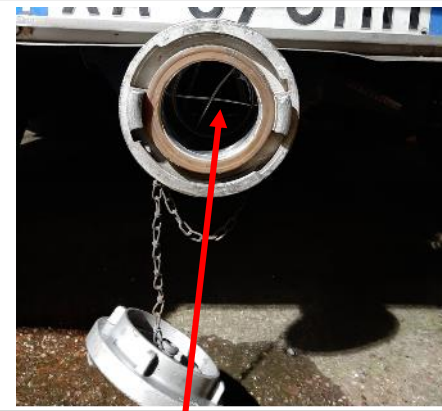
- Unlike the inlet of the rotary valve, which has an interlocked safety grid, the outlet is only fitted with a fixed guard (cross). The injury would have been more severe if this guard had not been present.
- This incident was caused by human error.
- The haulier held a meeting with all his drivers and a safety bulletin was issued.
- **Cleaning of the Rotary valve may not be done by putting a hand inside the rotary valve but by using compressed air before assembly, and then by purging product into a bag after connecting the hose to the rotary valve.**
- **Before working on a rotary valve: never attempt to bypass interlocks, and never assume that the valve is de-energized:**

CHECK FIRST !

- **Incidents must always be reported immediately !**



Rotary valve with safety grid on top



Rotary valve outlet with fixed guard inside

Compromised Safety Principles
BS2 / BS5 / BS7

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