

06/2017

Date:

June 2017

OBJECT: FACE CUT CAUSED BY USING A GRINDER

DESCRIPTION

On July 2017 SICIM Projects worldwide registered 2 incidents during grinding activities. Following description of one incident – general root causes and general Corrective Actions to be implemented worldwide.

During manual welding, a welder was cleaning a pipe end using a grinder with brush attachment when the grinder kicked back and struck the operator on the right side of his chin. Initial first aid was provided on site and then the operator was brought to hospital. Based on IP & witnesses statements, the accident happened while the IP was grinding in the three o'clock pipe position. The operator sustained a linear wound below lower lip extending to right lower chin. The wound was closed with stitches at the hospital.

Additional Possible HiPo consequence: Serious permanent lesions. The impact with a grinding disk could cause a permanent inability to work.



Incident Location



Face Shield used by the worker



Grinder machine utilised

CONSEQUENCES

- ✓ ERP immediately activated;
- ✓ Laceration of the right side of the chin. Full thickness laceration to chin. Externally 16 sutures, internally 5. No nerve damage.
- ✓ Welding and grinding activity has been temporarily suspended until the conclusion of the incident initial investigation.

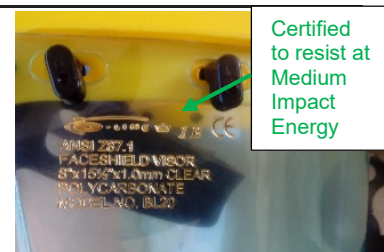
CAUSES

- ✓ Inadequate technical skill;
- ✓ Using tools / equipment or materials improperly;
- ✓ Improper position for task: in the opinion of an independent expert, the operator may have assumed an incorrect stance for the three o'clock pipe position;
- ✓ Inadequate or missing PPE: according to statements provided, the operator was wearing correct PPE. The face shield was examined approx. one hour after the incident and was found to be fully intact and without any damage.
- ✓ Inadequate risk perception / risk underestimated;
- ✓ Lack of supervision: supervisor was not present at the moment of the accident.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Measures adopted in order to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident:

- ✓ Safety Alert to be spread to SICIM Worldwide operations;
- ✓ Re-Train all welders & grinders on the use of Abrasive Wheel and the required PPE & use Safety Alert in TBT;
- ✓ Enforce PPE compliance with a thorough disciplinary action approach;
- ✓ Safety Meeting with Construction Supervisors regarding the incident and its corrective actions, the minimum PPE requirements for each task;
- ✓ Check adequacy of grinder disks and grinders;
- ✓ All grinders to have dead hand system in place and no rotation hold button;
- ✓ Replace Face Shield, with a complete round face coverage and with more impact resistance, depending of the speed of the disk used on site;
- ✓ Grinders to use Safety Glasses AND Face Shields during grinding operations;
- ✓ Risk Assessment to provide clear / detailed description of PPE to be used by grinders and grinding welders;



Correct

Wrong