

# SAFETY Alert



# SLCIM

**PREPARED BY: Corporate QHSE Dept.**

N° 05/2023 Date: May 2023

**OBJECT: GRINDING DISK RUPTURE**

## DESCRIPTION

At the fabrication shop a manual welder was involved in welding activities of 24" pipes (35mm thickness): after the 1st root of the weld, the welder started to clean the weld with grinding machine using a cutting disc for grinding. While cleaning the weld, the cutting disc fell apart into fragments. As a result, grinding disk fragments penetrated through the welding mask and slightly scratched welder's nose and eyes. IP was evacuated to nearest hospital for further examinations. From incident investigation it resulted that, due to operational needs, the grinding machine guard was tampered and modified to accommodate a bigger (230mm) cutting disk than the approved dimension disk (125mm).

## CONSEQUENCES

- HiPo consequence which might lead to a permanent disability;
- ERP immediately activated;
- Work activity temporarily suspended until the conclusion of the incident investigation.

## INCIDENTS CAUSES

- Inadequate risk perception / risk underestimated: despite during visual inspection of the tool the disc was observed with the edges eroded - cutting disk used for grinding, the work was not stopped;
- Inadequate or missing guards or barrier: handmade protective cover installed on grinding machine to accommodate cutting disc;
- Inadequate Supervision: permanent construction and HSE supervision not assigned for the task. Foreman controlling 38 welders in two different welding workshops;
- Failure to use PPE or incorrect PPE: safety glasses not worn during grinding activities. Additionally, grinding disk fragments penetrated through the welding mask. Quality of Welding masks needs to be reassessed.



## CORRECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE ACTIONS

### Measures adopted to prevent recurrence of similar incidents:

- Training to all welders, highlighting the safe work process during the welding and grinding activities and safe use of grinding machine;
- Periodical check all power hand tools to ensure tampered one are not present;
- Familiarize all site staff with incident details during the Safety stand down meeting, highlighting that cutting disk cannot be used for grinding;
- Increase number of frontline supervisors in welding shop: each shop needs to be supervised by a dedicated supervisor;
- Purchase the proper tool suitable for the specific use and ensure that no modifications are performed.
- Use the safety glasses with clear lenses under the welding mask during grinding activities and assess the quality of the utilized welding mask.

## RECEPTION BY THE PROJECT

WHICH ACTIONS IDENTIFIED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PROJECT:

Project Manager:

Signature:

HSE Project Manager:

Signature: