

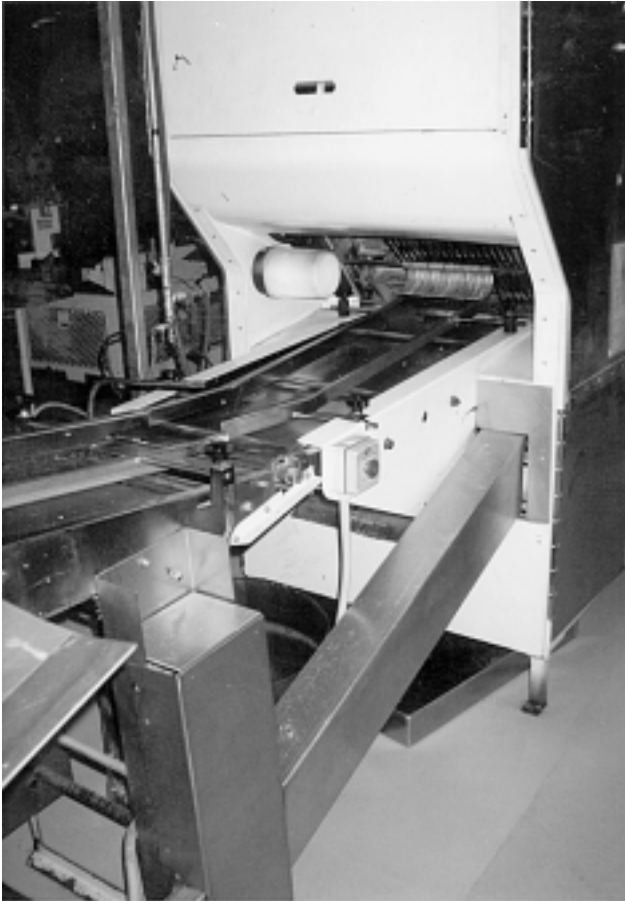
No job is more important.



Safety Alert

Nº.3 1999

## Bakery Worker Loses Finger in Bread-slicing Machine



A machinist at a bakery was injured when his hand came into contact with the moving blades of a bread-slicing machine. The employee was attempting to make adjustments on the outfeed side of the machine when the accident occurred. The blades amputated one of the worker's fingers whilst he was attempting to pull his finger out from the machine.

### Contributing Factors

An investigation into this accident revealed that:

- The employee attempted to make adjustments to the machine while it was turned on.
- A safety guard to prevent the operator's hand coming into contact with the blades was not fitted to the machine.
- The operator did not adhere to standard operating procedures.
- The operator took a 'short cut' to save time.
- There was a lack of supervision in the immediate work environment.
- The machinist had not received adequate training.

## Recommendations

- No person should make adjustments to, clean, service or in any other way touch a machine with moving parts if it is turned on.
- Bread-slicing machines should have interlocking guards that turn the machine off when the guard is moved.
- Operators should not be able to reach the machine's cutter blades when the machine is running.
- Employees should be provided with adequate supervision and training.
- Written Standard Operating Procedures should be provided to employees who operate bread-slicing machines.

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:  
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November 23, 1999