

### CONTROL OF HAND CRUSHING HAZARD

Owners of multi-head truss presses and multi-head jack presses are advised to read this document carefully. It contains important information concerning the control of a serious hazard associated with this type of machine.

Examples of these presses include, but are not limited to:

- Owens Easyset Multi-head Press
- Owens Multi-head Jack Press (1, 3 & 5 heads)
- Owens HydraLite
- Owens HydraPress
- AustEng Multihead Jack Jig Mk1 & Mk2
- Gang-Nail Multihead Press
- Bostitch Multihead Press



### HAZARD DESCRIPTION

A recent incident where an operator had his fingers and hand crushed has highlighted the serious hazard that exists for operators of multihead presses in truss plants.

Whenever more than one operator works at a multihead press there is the potential for exposure to permanent injury via crushing of the fingers, hands and lower arm. Any press head within reach of an operator during the pressing cycle presents a high risk of permanent and irreversible injury.



***WARNING: Operators risk permanent, irreversible injury from the hazard identified in this notice. Plant managers are advised to take immediate action to ensure that this hazard is adequately controlled.***



## **MiTek® Crushing Risk - All Multihead Presses**

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### **HAZARD CONTROL MEASURES**

MiTek strongly urges customers with any type of multihead press to review their hazard control measures these machines.

#### **Engineering Controls**

The most effective way to control the risk of crushing is to incorporate a safety light screen or laser scanner area guard into the press control system to prevent access of all personnel to the danger zone during the pressing cycle. This is the most effective known method of controlling the hand crushing risk.

#### **Procedural Controls**

Where a safety sensor system is not installed, MiTek strongly recommends retro-fitting such a device.

In the absence of such a device, strict procedural controls are required to prevent access to the danger zone during the pressing cycle. The minimum level procedural control should require all operators to be outside a clearly designated danger zone, e.g. a striped zone marked on the floor, during the pressing cycle. In addition the system may also require all operators to simultaneously press control buttons outside the danger zone to initiate the press cycle, thus ensuring they are not in the danger zone.

Safety light screens are the preferred solution. A higher level of risk remains when procedural controls are implemented, as they break down easily in the absence of strict enforcement by plant management.

### **IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

Owners of all multihead presses should immediately review their control of this hazard and implement one of the above-mentioned control procedures immediately.

MiTek are committed to assisting customers with their equipment occupational health and safety issues and are able to assist in the design and implementation of engineered safety systems on existing equipment. Please contact your local MiTek Machinery Support Manager for further information.

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Queries regarding this Machine Hazard Notice should be directed to the Machinery Support Manager at MiTek Australia Ltd on Ph: 03 8795 8888. Written on 23-09-2008.