



Machine Hazard Notice

TITAN, SUPER TITAN, ROLLER MASTER, & ALL TABLE PRESSES

EMERGENCY STOPPING DISTANCE

Owners of Titan, Super Titan, and Roller Master pressing systems manufactured by Becfab Equipment for Mitek Australia, and any other table press supplied by Mitek Australia, are advised to read this document carefully. It contains important information concerning the control of hazards associated with these presses.

HAZARD DESCRIPTION

In July 2001, an accident occurred on a Super Titan press at a roof truss plant. An operator received serious crushing injuries to his ankle and foot when it was trapped between the moving gantry press and a trestle table.

The accident occurred after an operator (setter) climbed on to a trestle to retrieve a nail gun that had been placed on the table. At the same time, the gantry press operator was distracted, did not see the setter on the table, and moved the press. Although, the setter hit the emergency stop bar, the press did not pull up in time, crushing his foot.

Some factors contributing to the accident were identified as follows:

- Machine Safety Checks had not been completed on the morning of the accident
- The press travelled too far, and reversed too far after the emergency stop bar was struck. (The stopping distance was checked and found acceptable at the time of commissioning.)
- Unauthorised adjustments had been made to the control settings on the press, altering the emergency stopping characteristics
- The press reaction time to stop and reverse was adversely affected by dust contamination and smoothness of the rail tracks
- The nail gun should not have been on the table
- A loud radio in the factory may have prevented the press operator from reacting quickly to setter's call for help
- There was no warning signal prior to press movement
- There was no clear signage to warn people of the dangers
- Operator training was informal, and training documentation not kept up to date.



WARNING: Operators risk serious injury if adequate controls are not in place to prevent press collisions. Immediate action should be taken to control this hazard on all table presses.

HAZARD CONTROL MEASURES

These hazards can be controlled in the following way:

- Perform regular documented safety and maintenance checks in accordance with the manufacturer's operation manual. Include a procedure to check the stopping distance of the press using the emergency stop bar. It must be adequate to prevent injury to an operator should they be standing on or between tables, and anywhere in the moving path of the press. Get a qualified person to adjust the electrical or hydraulic control settings until a safe stopping distance is achieved.



WARNING: Only a qualified electrician should be allowed access electrical control boxes to adjust safety controls.

If an adequate stopping distance can not be achieved with the existing drive equipment, engineering changes must be made to the press to improve stopping performance. Your local Mitek equipment representative can assist with making recommendations for engineering changes to certain presses.

- Prevent unauthorised access to any electrical, hydraulic, or other control that affects press stopping and safety performance.
- Enforce a good housekeeping policy that includes cleaning dust and contaminants from press travel rails.
- Enforce operator procedures that eliminate unnecessary climbing on to the pressing tables
- Review your policy of radios in the workplace, and reduce general noise levels where possible
- Consider adding an audible alarm sequence to the movement of the press. The alarm can sound for a period before the press is able to move
- Prevent unauthorised access to the press. Erect warning signs for operators and passers by.
- Ensure your plant training procedures are up-to-date and well documented

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Owners of table pressing systems supplied by Mitek should implement the above-mentioned control procedures immediately.