



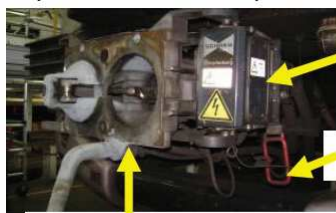
## SAFETY ALERT MTI – Thumb Crush Injury

ZH Alert No: 000013STE

Date of Issue: 27/07/2010

### WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee suffered a crush injury to the left thumb when it was caught in the mechanism of an auto-coupler (automated device which connects two passenger vehicles) during routine maintenance and testing of the compressed air powered auto-coupler.



Front of auto-coupler



### WHY DID IT HAPPEN (DIRECT CAUSE):

The employee had positioned himself above and at the front of the auto-coupler and was pulling the electrical head retraction cable (ripcord) to test the mechanism. Positioned at the front of the auto-coupler required the employee to place his left hand on the top of the auto-coupler housing. When the ripcord was pulled the mechanism retracted and caught the employees thumb in the mechanism pinch point (see Above).

### Contributing Factors:

- The employees' position at the front of the auto-coupler required him to place his hand on the housing and in the mechanism "line of fire".
- The circumstances that contributed to the employee working from the front of the auto-coupler had not been foreseen, and the hazard had not been identified and controlled

### Corrective Actions Required:

- All personnel informed that the electrical head retraction cable (ripcord) must be pulled whilst standing to the side of the auto-coupler
- Both hands are to be used to pull the ripcord reducing the risk of placing hands on the auto-coupler
- Conduct a risk assessment on the process and as required amend the current work instruction documentation
- Consultation with customer and engineering to design and agree on a guard for the auto-coupler, effectively guarding the pinch point

### Key Learning's:

This event highlights the importance of ensuring that during testing procedures we understand all the potential hazards such as moving part, electrical and stored energy etc.

Ensure body parts are clear of pinch points prior to the operation of any equipment

Remember to STOP THINK ACT REVIEW prior to the commencement of any Activity



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**For further information contact: Darren Gibson – OHS Manager 1300apprentice**