

Marine Safety Flash

A14-02 (15th February)

Angle Grinder Injury



Incident Overview

A crewmember was using an angle grinder on a winch when the cup brush hit a nut, it kicked back causing the brush to get entangled in the glove and coverall sleeve of the crewmember.

The grinder was not fitted with automatic stop (dead man button) therefore his co-worker had to step in to switch off the power to the grinder.

The crewmember suffered minor wounds only on arm and hand, but the consequences could have been severe or even fatal.



Key Findings

- The angle grinder was supplied without proper dead man button/cut off.
- A risk assessment at the point of work could have identified the missing safety feature on the hand tool.

Recommendations

- Unsafe angle grinder was removed from service on board.
- Angle grinders and other rotating power tools were checked to ensure they were fitted with automatic cut off devices.
- Crews were instructed in checking and correct use of power tools.
- Hand held power tools include angle grinders, disc sanders and chipping equipment etc. to be used must be fitted with automatic cut off devices.