

Safety Bulletin;

Internal Safety Learning – Medical Treatment Injury

| Bulletin No | Date | Severity | Potential | Likelihood of reoccurrence | Safety Principle Breach |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---|
| FOGAP UK 93 | 08/03/2017 | Medical treatment | Lost Time | Possible |  Use of Hand Tools |

Description:

Whilst undertaking cutting / grinding activities inside a vessel on one of our client sites the I.P. sustained a laceration to the left leg when it was contacted by the cutting disc mounted on a 4½” angle grinder.

Incident:

The I.P. was working as part of a 2 man team inside a vessel, they were tasked with replacing sections of the vessel inner shell. The I.P. was carrying out cutting using an angle grinder with a slitting disc. Due to the very constrained work area the I.P. was knelt down with his leg in close proximity to the grinder. During operation the grinder momentarily “kicked” and made contact with the I.P.’s left leg. The I.P. left the confined space and sought treatment for the cut. The I.P. required 4 stitches to the wound.



Picture showing re-enactment of the task and body position at the time of the incident.



Picture showing laceration to the left leg caused by contact with a slitting disc

Immediate Cause.

Body positioning of I.P. such that his leg was “in the line of fire”

Root Cause?

The incident occurred due to the very cramped working environment that the I.P. was positioned in. His knee was in very close proximity to the operating tool and he had restricted movement / dexterity to avoid the contact. The Risk Assessment had not identified that the base of the vessel was domed and therefore insufficient control measures had been implemented to access the tight area.

FOGAP Preventative actions:

- All future works of this nature to have thorough Risk Assessment conducted.
- Use of “Immediate stop” angle grinders where practical for all confined space working
- Consideration of use of a cut resistant material for arms and legs for restricted grinding activities.