

Equipment supplier fined after worker injured

A company in Aberdeen has been sentenced after an employee sustained serious injuries.

Mirosław Pancyzk fractured both of his wrists and sustained a fractured middle finger on his right hand while working for Harper UK (Aberdeen) Ltd at the firm's premises on 4 April 2022.

He had been using a piece of emery paper to polish a metal bar on a lathe when the paper snagged on the rotating workpiece.

This led to Mr Pancyzk's gloved hands being drawn into the machine.



The machine being used by Mr Pancyzk.

As a result, both of his wrists were fractured and he wore casts for six weeks following the incident. The palm of his right hand required plastic surgery. He lost the part of his ring finger on his right hand and also fractured the middle finger.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found Harper UK (Aberdeen) Ltd, a supplier of equipment to a number of industries including oil and gas, failed to implement an adequate means of protection. At the time of the incident, there was no chuck guard in place, an absence of tooling to allow the task to be undertaken safely and no risk assessment for this particular lathe.

Harper UK (Aberdeen) Ltd, of Albyn Place, Aberdeen, pleaded guilty to

breaching Section 2(1) and Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £10,000 at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 18 June 2024.

HSE inspector Graham McEvoy said: “This incident was easily preventable and the risk should have been identified. Employers should make sure they properly assess and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery.”

Notes to editors:

1. [The Health and Safety Executive](#) (HSE) is Britain’s national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.