

GLOBAL SAFETY ALERT

CONTRACTOR FATALLY INJURED IN PLANT MIXER

INCIDENT DETAILS

At a ready-mix plant, due to a recurring electrical failure on the plant mixer discharge gate, the plant operator requested a plant worker to adjust a sensor that was located beside and outside the mixer. The plant worker, who was a contractor, adjusted the sensor successfully then went back to the control room to inform the operator about his next tasks, but explained that he first needed to collect his tools, because he'd forgotten them and left them by the mixer. A few minutes later the plant operator started the mixer and heard a scream from the mixer area. He immediately stopped the mixer and went to investigate and sadly, he found the contractor had climbed inside the mixer.



Mixer access hatch

KEY FINDINGS

- The contractor entered the mixer without isolating the energy by applying the LOTOTO procedure.
- There was a limit switch on the access hatch to stop the energy supply when opened, but it had been moved into another position to prevent it from working.
- There was a manual pre-start warning alarm for the mixer, but the operator did not use it.
- A Take 5 had not been carried out and a Permit to Work was not issued.
- The plant operator asked the contractor to fix the electrical issue even though he was not qualified to do that task.
- The plant staff had been significantly reduced in number because the plant was planned for closure in the near future.
- The contractor had not received formal isolation training in the last 2 years and formal training in general at the plant had not taken place in the current year.

MANAGERS – KEY POINTS TO CHECK

- Everyone is trained in the LOTOTO procedure, and the requirements are strictly enforced.
- Where trip switches or other devices are fitted to access points, procedures are in place to regularly check they function correctly, and they are designed so they cannot be manually defeated.
- In accordance with the additional guidance within the CEMEX Machinery Guarding and Isolation Systems Standard, an assessment has been made to identify where a Captive Key Isolation system is needed, in addition to the LOTOTO isolation point.
- A Permit to Work procedure is in place and the pre-task Take 5 process is used.
- There's enough resources and experienced people for the tasks, including for commissioning and de-commissioning phases, and supervision needs are assessed.
- Employees and contractors are fully trained for the tasks they carry out.

ALL PERSONNEL – ACTION TO TAKE

- **Always** follow the LOTOTO procedure in full before working on machinery or removing guards – Please remember **Lock Out, Tag Out, Try Out!**
- **Always** double check you have isolated the machinery before starting the task.
- **Always** check the risk assessment and carry out a Take 5 before starting the task.
- **Always** check with your supervisor to see if a Permit to Work is needed for the task and maintain effective communication.
- **Always** let your supervisor know if there are unexpected changes to the task, so additional controls can be put in place.
- **Always** let your supervisor know if you have not been trained to carry out a task safely.



Isolation
Procedures



Safe
Systems



Tools /
Equipment



Look After Yourself
and Each Other