



WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH NOTICE (WSHN)

TOPIC CONCERNS ON THE RISE OF FINGER INJURIES INCIDENTS			Reference Number 2023/WSHN/02
Approved by: Director of Compliance and International Affairs Division	Issue date: 06 March 2023	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 1.0

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) would like to remind all principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work to be aware of work activities that can lead to finger injuries and to take the necessary safety precautions to avoid finger injury incidents in the workplace.

In 2022, there were 22 cases of finger injuries reported to SHENA via the initial incident notification to SHENA. Twelve of the 22 cases were reported from Construction Industry and out of these, 4 cases resulted in amputation. The main causes involved the use of powered tools / machinery, caught between objects, manual handling and contact with a hot surface. SHENA has observed that, there was a lack of proper safe work procedures and risk assessment at the workplace involved.

Hence, the workplace is reminded to carry out a risk assessment as per Regulation 3 of [Workplace Safety and Health \(WSH\) \(Risk Management\) Regulations, 2014](#), in relation to the safety and health risks posed to any person including workers who may be affected by the work activities to define and understand all the potential sources of hazard and communicate with the workers. This includes regular checks and monitoring of the work activities to manage potential hazardous situations from cropping in the workplace.

The use of power tools / machinery, especially those with exposed moving parts, can cause severe finger injuries. The following measures can be taken to prevent injuries:

1. SAFEGUARDS AND MAINTENANCE OF MACHINE / POWER TOOLS

(As per Regulation 11-13 of [WSH \(General Provisions\) Regulations, 2014](#))

- Before using machine / power tools, carry out a risk assessment to identify potential risks. This includes checking the condition of the machine/ power tools and ensuring that users are protected from contact with moving parts by appropriate guards.
- Maintenance of Machine / Power tools must also be carried out regularly.

2. INSTRUCTION, INFORMATION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

(As per Section 12 (3) of [Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009](#))

- Ensure that workers are well-trained and competent in order to operate the machine / powered tools safely including understanding clear instructions on the hazards involved in carrying out the work task.

3. WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT & HOUSEKEEPING

(As per Section 12 (3) of [Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009](#))

- Workplace environment must be properly managed (i.e. adequate lighting) and proper housekeeping must be maintained to avoid any slip and trip incident that can lead to finger injuries.

4. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

(As per Section 15 (1) of [Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009](#) and [Regulation 33 of WSH \(Construction\) Regulations, 2014](#))

- The use of appropriate protective gloves is required for certain activities, to protect workers from the risk of hand injuries particularly manual handling activities involving heat and sharp edges. The workplace is reminded to further assess the risk of the work activity and take necessary control measures that may require the use of PPE.

All principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work are hereby reminded to comply at all times with Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009 and its regulations. Failure to conduct risk assessment for all work in the workplace and take reasonably practicable measure to eliminate or reduce safety and health risks may lead to a fine not exceeding BND10,000 (for first offence).

The law ensures that those who create the risk reduce those risks to persons (employees and public), assets and the environment, to As Low As is Reasonably Practicable (ALARP).

Should there be any questions concerning this Workplace Safety and Health Notice please contact SHENA at +673 238 2000 or email info@shena.gov.bn. SHENA would like to thank all stakeholders for their cooperation in ensuring Brunei Darussalam is a safe place to work and live.

END