

QUARRY SAFETY WEEK 2024

TOOL BOX TALK SERIES



TOPIC: Concrete Batching Plants

INTRODUCTION

Concrete batching plants pose many hazards if maintenance work or cleaning is being carried out. It is essential that a safe system of work and isolation procedure is in place to minimise the unexpected or accidental start-up of the plant or equipment.



THE HAZARDS

- Unexpected or accidental start-up of plant during maintenance or cleaning.
- Entanglement in dangerous moving parts
- Adding fibres or other additives to the mixer
- Falls from height
- Cement dust
- Wet cement

SAFE OPERATING PRACTICES

- All access to dangerous moving parts or areas must be adequately guarded to prevent serious injury.



- Always make yourself familiar with, and adhere to, the Isolation Procedures and Risk Assessment control measures for the item of plant you are working on. This includes the concrete mixer or any conveyor, screw or hopper that is to be worked on.
- Prior to opening the mixer, or removing any guard on a conveyor or screw for maintenance or cleaning purposes, always ensure the power source is fully isolated and locked out to prevent the unexpected or accidental start-up of the plant.
- Always ensure the mixer lid is propped securely open by attaching an adequate safety chain to prevent the mixer lid closing in the event of the air compressor being inadvertently switched off.
- Ensure that you have safe access to the mixer and do not put yourself at risk of falling from height and that all measures to prevent falls from height are in place, such as handrails, midrails & toeboards. Report defects to your supervisor/manager.
- Inspection chambers should be adequately guarded to prevent entanglement with dangerous moving parts. This can be done with a mesh-type guard or by installing an adequately sized chute that prevents anyone reaching dangerous parts.
- Always wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves and eye protection to prevent contact with wet cement.
- Water down the area or wear appropriate dust masks if there is dry cement dust present.
- Ensure that you do not strain yourself from manual handling of heavy tools. If in doubt, obtain help.
- Ensure that you have adequate lighting and ventilation of the working space.



ISOLATION PROCEDURES

- Prior to opening the mixer or removing any guard or inspection plate (such as from conveyors or screws) for maintenance or cleaning purposes, always ensure the power source is fully isolated and locked out to prevent the unexpected or accidental start-up of the plant. This includes any adjacent plant that may affect the works area or access/egress to/from the area.
- Always follow the Isolation Procedures for the plant or conveyor you are working on.
- Isolation and lock off should be considered from ALL forms of energy in the plant i.e., stored, electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic, mechanical.
- If the isolation procedure is interrupted to see if the equipment can run, ensure all personnel are aware and clear of the danger area. If the equipment does not run, re-implement the isolation procedure.



REMEMBER: DO NOT carry out "The Quick Job"

STOP & THINK - ALWAYS ISOLATE

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