

PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM

CASE STUDY

Business Type	Butchers Shops
Topic	Ensuring health and safety of persons using machinery/ sharp blades and safety of members of the public visiting these shops
Date	September/October 2014



Background

In August 2014 the Public Safety Team were alerted of two separate thumb/finger amputation injuries in butchers' shops in Leicester. Investigations revealed that the incidents were due to missing guards (to a band saw and a mincer).

Achieving Compliance

The **Public Safety Team** recognised the need for urgent action and immediately issued a safety alert to all butchers shops warning them of the dangers of unsafe machinery and the action they needed to take to prevent injury. Businesses likely to be using band saws, mincers and meat slicers were advised not to use them unless they were properly interlocked/guarded or had equivalent safe systems in place.

Compliance Operation

During September and October 2014 officers from the Public Safety Team visited 80 butchers' shops to check on health and safety compliance but focusing on machinery/equipment safety.

Inspection Findings

- In 50% of premises (40 shops) dangerous un-guarded equipment such as band saws and mincers were found to be in use. These un-safe machines were immediately prohibited by officers to prevent serious injury to operators. In almost all cases the officers worked with the business to secure compliance and prohibited the use of dangerous machines/equipment on a voluntarily basis.
- In about 33% of premises (25 businesses) basic health and safety arrangements such as provision of first aid boxes, accident books, chainmail gloves/aprons and employee training were not in place.

- In about 10% of premises (10 businesses) other serious hazards found included unsafe electrical wiring and appliances, damaged floor surfaces and lack of barriers to prevent members of the public accessing dangerous machinery/equipment.

Numerous revisits had to be carried out before prohibitions were lifted by officers. Officers will continue to make further visits to ensure that businesses are following safe practices

Benefits of the Project

- The major impact of the project has been the protection of local workers from the risk of serious, often life-changing injuries associated with the use of machinery in butchers
- Improved customer safety by ensuring that public areas in butchers' shops are maintained in a safe condition
- Improvements in general health, safety and welfare standards in butchers' shops by raising awareness of the associated hazards and the precautions needed to protect employees and customers.
- Establishment of good working relationships between officers and businesses to ensure lasting compliance.

Comment

Govind Mandora, Public Safety Team Manager stated: "The project clearly shows the need for regular inspections of business premises carrying out hazardous activities to not only protect employees but also ensure that customers are safe. Without such inspections the likelihood of more live-changing injuries happening was a real possibility and so officers from the Public Safety Team acted quickly to put a stop to such un-safe bad practices."

Contact

If you require any further details about the points raised in this case study, please contact:

Govind Mandora

Team Manager

Public Safety Team

9/12/14