

# UK Safety Alert

## Contractor cut by knife

### Details of the Incident

A contractor was attempting to cut a rubber liner to fit to a chute. The contractor placed the liner on the floor and placed a steel rule along the line to be cut. Using a “Stanley knife” he proceeded to cut the material but as he did so the knife slipped over the edge of the steel rule and sliced the thumb on his left hand. Hospital treatment was required for the injury and the contractor had 4 stitches inserted.

Investigation identified that the injured person was not wearing the correct gloves for the task. The safe system of work in place specified the use of Slash resistant type gloves and the contractor was still wearing Rigger gloves over a pair of latex gloves. Also it was identified that normally a 6mm deep straight edge ruler would be used as a guide when cutting but in this instance a 3mm deep bevelled edge rule was used increasing the chance of the blade slipping.



Latex Gloves



Rigger Gloves



Showa Slash Resistant Gloves

### Learning Points

The contractor failed to follow the safe system of work issued by his own company, he was an experienced operative who had been inducted, held the relevant competency accreditation and had even been witnessed working safely earlier in the day. ***At the time of the incident, for whatever reason, the injured person decided to take a short cut by not using the right PPE or equipment, any time saved was subsequently wasted by the time spent in hospital waiting and being treated!***

- ***The contractor had received an induction and had a Permit to Work.*** Do contractors receive an induction appropriate to the task(s) they are to perform? Do Permits to Work fully address the control measures for all aspects of the task(s) to be performed?
- ***The contracted company had a documented safe system of work for the task.*** Are contractors SSOW reviewed during the issuing of a Permit to Work? Are the critical control measures discussed to ensure understanding by the individual(s)?
- ***The wrong PPE was being used.*** Is the appropriate PPE for the task(s) always identified? Is the correct PPE readily available?
- ***The straight edge used as a guide was different to that normally used.*** Are the correct tools for the job known? Are the correct tools made available?