



# Media Release - SafeWork SA

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Friday 28 November 2008

## MANUFACTURERS FINED OVER HAND INJURIES

The SA Industrial Relations Court has imposed fines totalling \$51,000 on two manufacturers, whose workers suffered serious hand injuries in separate incidents.

Today **Bridgestone Australia Pty Ltd** was fined \$21,000 after pleading guilty to one count of breaching section 19(1) of the *Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986* in failing to ensure the safety of an employee.

In September 2005, as he tried to help a colleague resolve a problem, a 36-year-old male worker lost the tops of three fingers when his hand was caught in the die chamber of a rubber-extruding machine at Bridgestone's Salisbury factory.

The risk assessment had not factored in the possibility of two people working on the machine when one was usually required. A guard and an interlock device have since been fitted.

Earlier this week, **Artso Cores (SA) Pty Ltd** was fined \$30,000 for breaching the Act in the same manner. The company failed to answer to the court on the matter and was convicted in its absence.

In August 2006, an employee was operating a core-making machine designed to produce dies.

The die closed on his hand resulting in serious crush and burn injuries. The machine's interlock system, designed to facilitate safe access, was not operating at the time.

Industrial Magistrate Michael Ardlie said that while the risk of injury had been identified with the machine, that's where the process had stopped.

"We continue to see far too many of these types of injuries, which is why manufacturing remains a priority industry for all workplace safety authorities in Australia," says SafeWork SA Executive Director, Michele Patterson.

"During our Safe Work Month recently completed, our inspectors made many presentations on safety in manufacturing.

"These two cases illustrate why we need to continually press home that message," Ms. Patterson said.

*For answers and advice on workplace health and safety and the relevant laws, call SafeWork SA's telephone Help Centre on 1 300 365 255. To report serious accidents or incidents, in the workplace call 1 800 777 209*