

9 October 2017

Company convicted over industrial accident

A Para Hills West business involved in an accident that saw a worker lose part of four fingers has been convicted and fined \$99,000 in the South Australian Employment Court for work health and safety breaches.

Rota Forma Pty Ltd (which trades as Olympic Industries) operates a business producing and building metal garages, car ports and sheds at Para Hills.

In court, the company pleaded guilty to breaches of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, in relation to an accident that occurred in 2015. The court heard a forklift driver had been inspecting a guillotine plant's conveyor belt when a support arm unexpectedly lowered, crushing his hand along the knuckle line.

There had been no hazard identification for the guillotine plant. The guillotine had not been isolated and the employee only had limited training in how to operate it. As a result of the accident, the worker lost part of four fingers on his right hand.

The court's Deputy President Stephen Lieschke said the worker's "entirely avoidable shocking injuries... represented about the worst potential injuries that could have been caused by the uncontrolled safety risks."

The Deputy President did note that "Rota-Forma did respond in a thorough and positive way to the deficiencies that caused this offence".

Rota Forma was fined \$99,000 and convicted of breaching the *Work Health and Safety Act*.

SafeWork SA Executive Director Martyn Campbell urged businesses to be mindful of their work health and safety responsibilities.

"When using machinery such as a guillotine plant, businesses can't afford to compromise on essential work health and safety measures," he said.

"That means you need to ensure all staff likely to use the equipment are properly trained and that appropriate risk management procedures are in place.

"I'd encourage all businesses to ensure they have the proper procedures in place to ensure workers are appropriately trained for the work they're likely to do."

To report a concern about workplace safety, or to seek advice from our Workplace Advisory Service, contact SafeWork SA on 1300 365 255.