

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

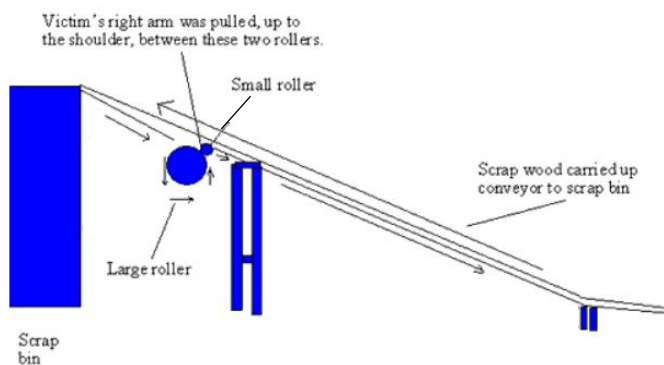
TERM HOMEWORK – A CASE STUDY

(Due Date: 05.01.2024)

Below is an actual incident that happened in Australia about 5 years ago. Read the text carefully and comment on it. Your comment should cover the causes of the incident, the measures that must have been taken by all the parties involved. Comment also on what you would have done before the incident and after the incident (i) if you were the victim, (ii) if you were his supervisor (iii) if you were a co-worker of the victim and (iv) if you were the employer. You must also draw a conclusion as to the lessons that the incident teaches us. Add also your views and opinion on the legal aspect of the incident.

Your paper should be written on computer using Calibri 12 font. Support your paper by relevant figures and add your references if you use any. Your references should also include the web pages you use on the internet for this purpose. The paper should be between 4-6 pages.

An 18-year-old male was severely injured when his right arm became caught in the roller mechanism underneath a conveyor belt. He was pulled into the roller mechanism and suffered compressional asphyxia and blunt force injuries. The employer was a corporation that manufactured hardwood trim, stairways, doors, mantels and moldings. The victim had worked for the employer two months in the cutting room as a chop saw operator. His job was to chop out knots and other imperfections, to cut rough lumber to the desired lengths, and to clean up scrap wood by loading it onto the flat portion of the conveyor, which ran the length of the building. On the day of the incident, the victim began his 10-hour



shift at 4:30 p.m. He had been working approximately seven and a half hours when the incident occurred. His work station was approximately 50 meters away from the portion of the conveyor involved in the incident, but he had left his work station because he was caught up. After 5-10 minutes

had elapsed, his supervisor began to look for him. The supervisor finally located the victim, entangled in the inclined portion of the conveyor belt. The victim's right arm, up to the shoulder, had been pulled into the roller mechanism underneath the belt at a point where the bottom of the roller was almost 2 meters above the floor. The supervisor, upon seeing the victim, immediately shut off power to the belt at a wall panel 120 cm beyond where the victim was entangled. Since there were no eyewitnesses to this incident, it is not certain how the victim became caught. The roller mechanisms were too high to have caught him or his clothing (sleeveless shirt, jeans) as he walked by unless he jumped up or reached up. The victim was not wearing any gloves or other personal protective equipment (PPE). The conveyor belt was in constant operation when the plant was running so workers throughout the plant could place scraps on it at any time. It is possible that the victim might have been climbing up the conveyor belt and may have caught his hand in the roller from above. Co-workers reported having seen the victim riding the raised portion of the belt on previous occasions, and he had received written reprimands for this. It is also possible that he reached up as he was walking under the belt, catching his hand between the rollers.