

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

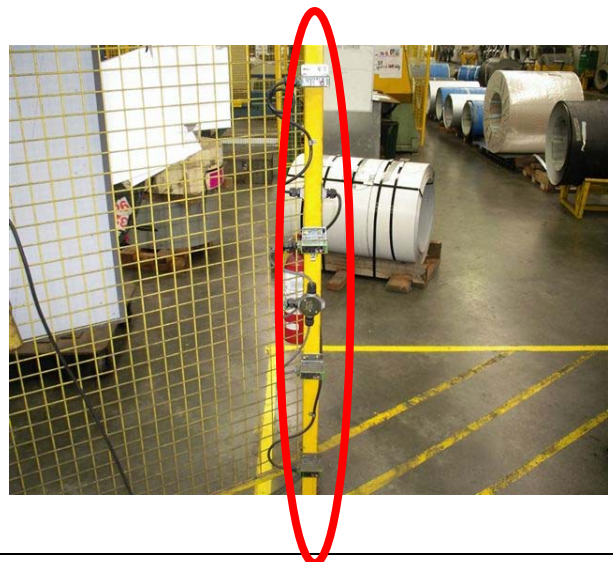
"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0015
Subject:	Near miss incident from reflective clothing triggering a reflective proximity sensor
Date:	September 2006

Incident:

The E-stop was triggered when the operator walked through the Reflective Proximity Sensors at the entrance to the Decoiler guarding however the Un-coiler feed proximity reflective sensor was not disabled

The operator then leant in front of the beam wearing a reflective jacket while he adjusted the pressure settings (located just above the sensor) and the reflective section of the jacket reflected the beam back to the sensor and the un-coiler started unwinding. The operator received a fright and moved.



Key Lessons:

- Avoid wearing reflective clothing around machine sensors.

Recommendations:

- Improve the machine operating process by installing a relay such that when the reflective proximities (acting as a light curtain) guarding the decoiler entrance are triggered (e-stop condition) the machine can not run in automatic mode, the decoiler can only be jogged with the pendant control.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
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