



NetWizz Bird Netting Applicator Fatality



INCIDENT

A 42 year old man was fatally injured when he became entangled in a net that he was retrieving from vines using a NetWizz – Bird Netting Applicator.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The victim had completed the retrieval of the net, turned the spreading arms to the travel position and was preparing the net to be transported.

Whilst he was working with the net the spindle started rotating, tipping him onto the ground where the end of the net caught on his right boot pulling him into the machine.

INVESTIGATION

The Department of Labour's investigation determined that the slot in the latch plate of this machine could fail to fully engage with the fixed bolt on the frame when the sensor latch lever is pulled.

The investigation also determined that the external hydraulic power from the tractor and the spindle motor were both engaged when the accident happened. If the hydraulic power is turned off or the spindle motor is disengaged then the net cannot start rotating.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

To avoid other incidents, suppliers, owners and operators of NetWizz – Bird Netting Applicators should:

- Always turn off the hydraulic power to the NetWizz before exiting the tractor;
- Ensure the bolt on the frame is fully engaged in the latch plate slot; and
- Always disengage the spindle motor immediately after locking the sensor off.

WHICH INDUSTRIES/SECTORS OR MATTERS WILL THIS INFORMATION BE RELEVANT TO?

Wine and fruit growers and contractors.

Note: This material has been prepared using the best information available to the Department of Labour at the time of publication. Information may change over time and it may be necessary for you to obtain an update. This material is also only intended to provide general advice and does not constitute legal advice. You should make your own judgement about action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with your workplace health and safety obligations under the law.

Sensor Handle

Latch Lever

Latch Plate



1



Fully Engaged



Not Fully Engaged

2

