



Hazard Alert

WORKPLACE SERVICES

Department for Administrative and Information Services

No. 52 DUMP BASKET CLIPS FOR RETAIL SHELVING ASSEMBLIES

November 2002

1. OBJECTIVE:

To advise employers and employees in the retail industry of the:

- Risk associated with using incorrect methods of dismantling steel shelving assemblies.
- Correct work practices to minimise the risk to employees and other persons.

2. BACKGROUND:

During a shelving display refit procedure in July 2002, a supermarket employee sustained a serious injury to an eye from being struck by a sprung metal “dump basket” clip.

A sprung metal “dump basket” clip is used at each end of a “dump basket (or stock basket)” to secure it to the shelving assembly.



(photo – dump basket clip)

In this incident the “dump basket” was twisted at each end to release the clips in order to move the basket to another location. The clip was unintentionally ejected and became a projectile, injuring the employee and placing patrons at risk of injury.

The employee had not been issued eye protection suitable to the task.

3. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS:

Occupational Health Safety & Welfare Act, 1986 - Duties of employers

The Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986, requires employers to provide a safe working environment, safe systems of work and to keep plant and substances in a safe condition. (Section 19)

4. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

Any sprung metal clip has the potential to become a dangerous projectile. An alternative system to eliminate this risk is the use of plastic self-locking ties that are cut and replaced during refits.

Plant hazard identification and risk assessment must consider:

- Appropriate personal protective equipment;
- Manual handling issues, in particular working in awkward postures; and
- Risks to other persons.

Should metal clips be the preferred method of securing stock baskets, the employer must develop a safe system of work, which eliminates or minimises the potential for an injury.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Retail Wholesale Transport and Storage Team

Workplace Services,

Department for Administrative and

Information Services,

GPO Box 465, ADELAIDE SA 5001

Telephone:

- 1300 365 255 (within SA)
- (08) 8303 0400 (Mobile and Interstate callers)

Website: www.eric.sa.gov.au