

Rubber Machinery

Kobelco faces safety citations from OSHA

By Rachel Abbey McCafferty

Ohio's Cleveland Business

HUDSON, Ohio—The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Kobelco Stewart Belling Inc. in Hudson for 13 safety and health violations that carry a potential penalty of nearly \$140,000.

OSHA said in a news release on May 15 that it found repeat violations of machine guarding standards, which can lead to injuries including lacerations and amputation.

The repeat violations the company was cited for were listed in the release as "inadequate lockout/tagout procedures to protect workers who service or maintain machines from moving machinery parts, exposing workers to unguarded equipment and not labeling chemical containers."

Repeat violations are given when an employer has been cited for the same or similar violation in the past five years at a facility in what OSHA calls "federal enforcement states." OSHA said the company was cited

for similar violations in 2011.

OSHA said the investigation was started after a worker complaint. The proposed penalties add up to \$139,000.

"Failing to protect workers from dangerous machinery is among the most frequently cited OSHA violations and injuries involving machinery and equipment often result in death or permanent disability," Howard Eberts, OSHA's area director in Cleveland, said in the release. "Employers who are cited for repeat violations demonstrate a lack of commitment to employee safety and health."

Kobelco was cited for six "serious" violations, including a lack of fire extinguisher training and failing to train employees on personal protective equipment, and four "other-than-serious" violations, including not inspecting cranes daily and not keeping a chemical inventory list. Serious violations are defined as hazards that can lead to death or serious physical harm that the employer knew or should have known about.

Kobelco had 15 days from receiving the citations to occupy, request an informal conference with OSHA or contest the findings.

President David Sealton said in an email that he was not able to comment on the proposed OSHA fines. Sealton noted that the plant had just celebrated a year without a loss-time accident with its employees and included a news release about that milestone.

The release said the company, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kobe Steel Ltd. in Japan, has 110 employees. It makes processing equipment for the tire and rubber industries. The release noted the company regularly takes time to review safety procedures, and that employees took part in a safety meeting earlier in May on the importance of personal protective equipment.

The firm said it invites an OSHA consultant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to inspect the plant once or twice a year and added it takes part in annual inspections from Kobe Steel USA.

Azco designs knife to avoid secondary operations

By Chris Sweeney

Rubber & Plastics News Staff

FAIRFIELD, N.J.—Azco Corp. Inc. has designed a shear cut traveling knife assembly used to cut material continuously without having to use a secondary application.



Azco Corp.'s shear-cut traveling knife assembly.

The firm said the machine is ideal for open- or closed-cell foam rubber or insulation material with the ideal size of 1,300 millimeters wide and 3 to 55 millimeters thick.

Azco Corp. President Andrew Zucaro said the machine was developed toward the end of 2013 in response to customer demand. Azco's machine incorporates a loop sensor, which senses the presence of any material as it is continuously fed through the system and cut to specifications.

When the material is fed all the way through, the sensor stops the machine, allowing the machine to finish a job after hours.

Zucaro said it took Azco

about three months to design, sell and ship the unit.

"It's been doing well," Zucaro said. "We've got a few customers who have used that machine and a few others who are using a similar machine that's a little more narrow. We've received very good feedback. Customers have come back and ordered multiple units."

Azco said the machine requires 110V AC single phase power, 15 amp current and 90 psi compressed air. It utilizes a precision ground urethane drive top roller to supply force, which provides traction between the material and the drive system.

Azco can take over the machine remotely from anywhere in the world, Zucaro said, which allows the firm to service its machines efficiently.

"We're just a phone call away as far as

service work goes," he said.

Azco employs about 35 at its 16,000-sq.-ft. facility in Fairfield, its only location. Zucaro said the firm received ISO certification in 2013 and is in the process of buying more equipment for further design.

New Engel business aims at middle tier

By Nina Ying Sun

Plastics News

SHANGHAI—Wintec is the secret weapon for Engel Holding GmbH to boost its market share in Asia—where it now sits below the global average for the world's largest injection molding machine maker.

The family-owned business sent its top executives from Schwanberg, Austria, to Shanghai for the official launch of Wintec at Chinaplas April 23-26.

As Engel CEO Peter Neumann put it at the Chinaplas media day event: "Today is the birthday of Wintec. We are the parents of this product."

As a part of the Engel Group, Wintec will function independently from Engel in Asia. It is tasked with opening up sales in the commodity molders market.

Despite Asia's strong growth and its overtaking the Americas as Engel's second largest market after Europe, Engel's market share there remains low at 11 percent, based on value. To put things in perspective, Engel claims 35 percent of the European market, 16 percent in Americas and 17 percent worldwide.

Wintec brings the potential to change that picture, Neumann said. While Engel focuses on high-end applications with modular options, Wintec offers standardized machines for commodity producers, which is a big piece of the market.

Christoph Steger Engel's chief sales officer, presented an analysis of the injection molding machine market in Asia

and China. He divided the market into five tiers: premium, technical molding, commodities, low-specs and low-tech.

The middle section, commodity molding, translates to 14,000 presses, or 23 percent of the Chinese market in 2013. Overall, the Asian commodity molding market is made up of 24,450 presses, which represent 38 percent of the total press fleet of 64,000 machines.

Wintec, with its dual-platen t-win model, is designed to tackle this sizable market segment.

The t-win presses, available in six sizes from 450 to 1,750 tons, deliver 23-percent higher productivity, 26-percent improved total cost of ownership, 63-percent less

energy consumption and a 22-percent smaller footprint compared to local machines, according to Stefan Engleder, Engel's chief technology officer.

The three main targets for standardized Wintec machines are white goods, automotive and other 2-plates applications, Wintec CEO Peter Auringer said.

Wintec machines stick to high standards, albeit with reduced options, Neumann said.

The Changzhou plant for Wintec has 183,000 square feet of production floor space and 410,000 square feet of total area.

It has the option to expand another 516,000 square feet. The facility employs 100 and can produce 300 presses per year.



Vision Inspection Systems

Automatic Dimensional and Surface Optical Inspection Systems for:

- O Rings
- Oil Seals
- Flat Gaskets
- Shaft Seals
- Diaphragms
- Others



1-715-425-1900
info@nela-usa.com
www.nelavisionssystem.com




6x13 Two Roll Mill

16x18x170 Ton Press (JIC Cylinder)

Nepco USA LLC
43 Russell Road
Bethany, CT 06524
PH: 203-393-9050
Fax: 203-393-9051
Email: nepcousa@att.net

Not Shown:
20x20x170 Ton, 24x24x180 Ton Presses (JIC Steel Cyls)
17.20 Min. Cyls

NELA 1100 Street 7 St. South, 704-270-5600 T St. South, 704-270-5600, 80 St. South, 804-270-1100 St. South
449 Lake Road, 407-336-3400/336-3401/336-3402 St. 16, 16a, 16b, 16c, 16d
206-270-0700 475 Van Hook Road, 401-336-3400
206-270-0700 1000 1000 Van Hook Road, 401-336-3400
17.20 Min. Cyls