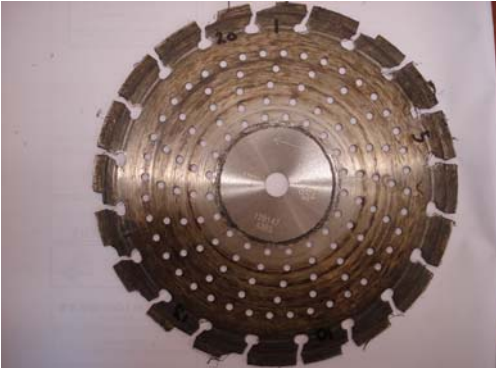



AMBER INFORMATION ALERT - 026 March 08



Red	To be actively communicated to relevant individuals within 5 working days
Amber	To be actively communicated to relevant individuals within time period specified by Contract/Project manager
Green	For information only, to be made available as deemed appropriate

Issue	Use of steel diamond tipped cutting blades
Subject	Learning from incidents - Overheating of diamond disc cutter blades
Who does this affect?	All operatives likely to operate a disc cutter and anyone working in the local vicinity of the works
Overview / Summary	<p>An incident occurred on our Deeside contract where a diamond disc cutter blade overheated causing elements of the blade to break up during operation.</p> <p>The blade (name: Piranha, supplier: Diamond Master) was being used to dry cut a redundant steel gas main for disposal when the tips of the blade disintegrated. The blade lost around 50% of its teeth but fortunately there were no injuries.</p> <p>Following investigation, it was identified that although the blade was correctly specified for the material being cut, it was being used without lubrication and this caused the blade to overheat and subsequently fail. Further investigation high-lighted that personnel were unaware of the need for lubricant with this type of blade, nor were there any manufacturer's instructions available to identify this requirement.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
What do projects and contracts need to know or do?	<p>If similar equipment is being used on your contract/project</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure that equipment instructions are available on site and if not seek advice from the supplier before using the equipment. 2) Managers/Supervisors must identify the need to use lubricant for cutting operations and ensure operatives are made aware of these requirements. 3) Operatives must stop and check requirements for lubricant if they are in any doubt. <p>Remember, if the cutting materials like concrete, sandstone, granite or brick, the dust generated is likely to contain high levels of a substance called crystalline silica that once in the lungs can cause permanent damage to your health. Lubrication must be used in any case to reduce this potential hazard.</p>
What do head office need to do?	This alert will be retained on the Roads IMS for future reference
What do Supply Chain need to do?	Forward this alert to relevant suppliers
Where to get further information?	HSE Construction Information Sheet No 54 - Dust control on concrete cutting saws used in the construction industry Blade manufactures own representatives or technical helpline.