

06-05

For Immediate Release
January 11, 2006

NOVA STEEL PROCESSING FINED \$75,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

HAMILTON, Ont. – Nova Steel Processing, a company that operates a steel processing plant in Stoney Creek, Ont., was fined \$75,000 on January 6, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in a serious foot injury to an employee.

On July 21, 2004, a worker was helping to remove used “cutting heads” (blades) and “spacers” (pieces of steel enabling the cutting heads to be spaced apart at different intervals) on a machine located on a “slitter line” (a production line that cuts rolls of steel to dimensions required by customers) when the worker’s foot got caught in a pinch point between a stationary component and a moving component that contained a blade. The force of movement resulted in amputation of the worker’s right foot. The component had been activated by a second worker to enable the cutting heads to be removed. A Ministry of Labour investigation found there was no lockout procedure to prevent movement of the component when workers were on the machine removing blades. The incident occurred at the company’s plant at 830 South Service Road in Stoney Creek.

Nova Steel Processing pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure a part of the machine that could endanger a worker’s safety was equipped with and guarded by a guard or other device that prevented access to the pinch point, as required by Section 25 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(a) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Carolyn Woron of the Ontario Court of Justice in Hamilton. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
45 Main Street East, Courtroom 320
Hamilton, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Carolyn Woron

Date / Time: January 6, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

Defendant: Nova Steel Processing

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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