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For Immediate Release
February 2, 2006

EXCELL STAMPING INC. FINED \$60,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

GUELPH, Ont. – Excell Stamping Inc., a Mississauga, Ont.-based manufacturer of brake shoe and truck axle components for the commercial and heavy vehicle truck industry, with an industrial plant in Kenilworth, Ont., was fined \$60,000 today for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious hand injuries to an employee.

On March 31, 2004, a worker was attempting to adjust a part that had been loaded into a punch press machine when the press cycled downwards. The worker's right hand was crushed in a pinch point resulting in the amputation of four fingers. The incident occurred at the company's plant in Riverston Industrial Park at RR # 2 in Kenilworth, a community located about 33 kilometres (20 miles) west of Orangeville, Ont.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the punch press machine was equipped with a "light curtain," but it failed to prevent the worker's hand from getting caught in the pinch point. A light curtain is an electronic device that was designed to shut off the punch press machine when a breach of the light screen occurred in order to prevent access to the pinch point.

Excell Stamping Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure a part of the punch press machine that could endanger a worker's safety was equipped with and guarded by a guard or other device to prevent access to the pinch point, as required by Section 25 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Robert Gay of the Ontario Court of Justice in Guelph. 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
55 Wyndham Street North, Courtroom 2
Guelph, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Robert Gay

Date / Time: February 2, 2006, 10 a.m.

Defendant: Excell Stamping Inc.

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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