

31 Crushed by counterweight on lift table elevator system – Inspection #1192147

A **46 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was crushed by the counterweight on a lift table elevator system. On the day of the incident, the victim, a maintenance technician, was replacing the drive motor on the conveyor system lift table, inside the DL85 drop loader or elevator. The elevator is designed to remove empty automobile seat pallets from the conveyor system, and lift them 15 feet above to another conveyor system, designed to transfer the pallets for vendor return. While testing the drive motor on the conveyor rollers, the victim leaned into an opening within the metal mesh containment to look under the ascending lift table during activation, and was struck by the descending elevator counter balance weight weighing approximately 1,275 lbs. The guard for the opening had been removed for the repair and was not replaced before the victim activated the conveyor system lift table and elevator.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(6)(i)	The employer did not conduct a periodic inspection of the energy control procedure at least annually to ensure that the procedure and the requirements of this standard are being followed. In that the employer's periodic inspection of energy control procedures did not ensure that the established energy control procedures were followed. The periodic inspections were not conducted when authorized employees were performing servicing and/or maintenance activities so that the inspector of the procedure can determine if the steps in the energy control procedure are followed, the employees involved know their responsibilities under the procedure, and that the procedure is adequate to provide the necessary protection, and if inadequate, what modifications are needed.
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Citation 2 Item 1

29 CFR 1910.147(f)(1)(ii)	When lockout or tagout devices were temporarily removed from the energy isolation device and the machine or equipment was energized to test or position the machine, equipment or component thereof, employees were not removed from the machine or equipment area. IN that an employee engaged in equipment repairs requiring the control of hazardous energy was not removed from the equipment area during testing of the equipment. On 11/16/16, a maintenance technician testing the DL85 drop load elevator suffered fatal injuries when he was struck by a descending counterweight. The company was previously cited for a violation of this occupational safety and health standard or its equivalent standard.
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Photo 1 of 2 – Empty car seat pallet (red arrow) as it is entering the DL85 elevator to be transported up to the return conveyor.

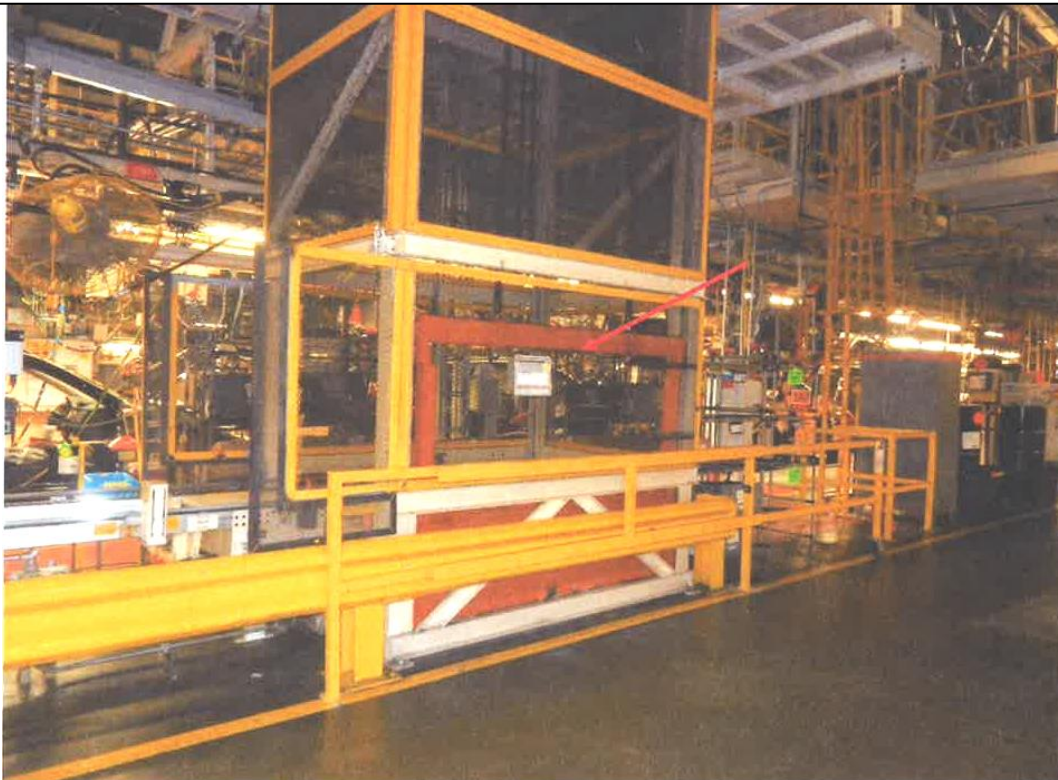


Photo 2 of 2 – Counterweight (red arrow) descended in the DL85 elevator after an empty car seat pallet has been transported up to the return conveyor.