

SAFETY ALERT

Number: 06 / 11

Date: 1 Dec 2011

Subject: **BANNED USE OF "OCCY STRAPS" OR ELASTIC RESTRAINING STRAPS**

Area of Concern: **All NT Airport Workplaces**

OBJECTIVE: To inform **all** NT Airport Users that the use of "Elastic Restraining Straps" (also known as elastic luggage straps or "Octopus/Ocxy straps") is prohibited in **all** NT Airport Workplaces.

BACKGROUND:

This week there was an incident at Darwin International Airport where a worker from a cleaning contractor nearly lost his eye when he released the strap holding a load under tension. This prompted a review of Ocxy strap use in NT Airport Workplaces and the posting of this alert prohibiting their use in NT Airport Workplaces.



"Ocxy Straps" have been responsible for many serious workplace injuries. In June 2002 Workplace Service investigated an accident where an employee of a hardware /salvage yard lost his right eye after being struck by an elastic restraining strap.

Similar incidents have also occurred in other states with grave consequences. In WA a fatality occurred when a young shopping centre employee was struck by an elastic strap, which penetrated his throat and caused fatal injuries.

The majority of incidents have occurred whilst "elastic restraining straps" were used to secure loads to vehicle roof racks, strap loads across trailers and strapping together of trolleys.

As a response NT Airports has prohibited the use of "Ocxy Straps" for all workers and worksites operated by NT Airports

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS:

Under the WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT-NT an employer has a duty of care to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that workers and others are not exposed to risks to their health and safety

A worker has the reciprocal duty to take reasonable care for the workers own health and safety and that of others in the workplace.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

Alternate restraints (for example: rope or non elastic straps) should always be used instead of "Elastic Restraining Straps" or "Ocxy Straps"

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