

Case 504. 44-year-old machine adjuster died when he contacted the upper frame of a pump that was energized by a damaged cord and plug.

A 44-year-old male machine adjuster died when he contacted the upper frame of a pump that was energized by a damaged cord and plug. The decedent was in the process of starting up/setting up a printing press that used a water-based ink supplied by three ink pumps. The three pumps had been plugged in on the press to 220V AC/30-amp, 3-prong style outlets. The outlets had visible dried ink on them and were not provided with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. The pumps did not have any independent grounding and were only grounded through the cord and plugs/isolated off the press. Two of the three pumps were in operation at the time of the incident. During the set up, the decedent knelt down next to the pump and rested his left forearm on the upper frame of the inside tint ink pump. The pump had defects in the cord and plug which energized the frame and made a ground contact through the decedent, causing him to be electrocuted. After the incident, a 3rd party electrician found that the pump involved in the incident had a bad electrical connection in the plug and no ground on the cord and plug.

MIOSHA General Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: 1910.304(g)(5): GI PART 39, DESIGN SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS [REF 408.13902]: The path to ground from circuits, equipment, and enclosures shall be permanent, continuous, and effective.

There was a XXX inside tint ink pump that had a loose ground connection inside the plug causing the tint ink pump frame to become energized and resulting in the death on an employee. Tint ink pump was located on the YYY press in the production area. *(MIFACE removed the brand names of the tint ink pump and press).*