Case 379. 52-year-old machine operator was crushed between the table and machine framing during the machine cycle while operating a Mori Seiki Model MV-Junior CNC machine.

A 52-year-old male machine operator was crushed between the table and machine framing during the machine cycle while operating a Mori Seiki Model MV-Junior CNC machine. The parts to be machined were located inside a 28-inch high on sides, 57-inch long, and approximately 49-inch deep table. The table moved on an “x” axis (left to right) and a “y” axis (front to back). Part loading and unloading occurred at the front of the machine upon the completion of the machining cycle. Upon the completion of a tool change or the initiation of the machine cycle the table moved backward along the “y” axis to perform the machining operation. The backside of the table is approximately 14 inches from the machine frame during the tool change position. When the machining cycle starts the gap between the table and the machine frame closes to within approximately 4 inches. Each hour, an operator must note the number of parts machined by reading a parts counter located on the side of the electrical cabinet/machine column. The incident was unwitnessed. Employees interviewed by the MIOSHA compliance officer indicated they stood approximately 4 feet away from the counter to read it. A possible incident scenario was that the decedent was taking a count of the parts which placed him between the backside of the machine table and the machine column. He was pinned between the moving table and the machine frame.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: GENERAL PROVISIONS, GI PART 1, RULE 408310034(9):

When an employee is exposed to a hazard created by a pinch point other than point of operation, the hazard shall be guarded or the employee otherwise protected.

(There was no guard or device to protect the operator or employees from a pinch point which occurs between the movement of the table and the machine framing during normal machining operations on the Mori Seiki #163 MV-JR. S/N 169.)