



J. H. FLETCHER & CO. Box 2187 – Huntington, WV 25722-2187 – 304/525-7811 – FAX 304/525-4025

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 99

TO: ALL OWNERS, OPERATORS AND REBUILDERS OF ROOF BOLTING MACHINES MANUFACTURED BY J.H. FLETCHER & CO.

FROM: J.H. FLETCHER & CO.

DATE: DECEMBER 2005

SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY: BOOM MOVEMENT (LOWERING) DURING ROTATION WITH BOLT-TIGHTENING ADAPTOR ATTACHED

The Operator's Manual for each Fletcher roof bolting machine instructs and warns operators regarding the proper sequence of operation for moving the boom and the hazard created if a bolt-tightening device is attached to the drill head while the drill chuck is still rotating. In October 2005 a serious accident occurred in South Africa when a new operator moved the boom and lowered the drill head while rotating the drill chuck before disengaging the bolt spanner. Based on incomplete investigative information reported to Fletcher, it appears that the operator was using a wrench/spanner adaptor to install the bolt and that it bent after the installation of the bolt during the movement of the boom and lowering of the drill head sequence.

This Information Bulletin is issued to reinforce the operating procedures recommended in the Operator's Manual. On mast feed and arm feed machines, there is a limited range of feed. The injury in this case apparently arose because of the unnecessary movement and the use of a wrench/spanner adaptor that was longer than necessary. There are no work circumstances that would cause an operator to move the boom while rotation is in use with a wrench/spanner adaptor attached.

Safety is a shared responsibility for all those engaged in mining. This unfortunate accident prompts Fletcher to remind its customers and the end-users of its products that the following points of emphasis should be discussed with all persons who have contact with roof bolting machines:

1. Mine superintendents and foremen should communicate with every operator and instruct each not to move the boom while rotating with a wrench/spanner in place.

2. Mine superintendents and foremen should evaluate the size and consistency of any wrench/spanner adaptor used to assure that they are only as long as necessary to complete the task at hand.
3. Because the mining environment varies from mine to mine, only high quality drill steels, bolts, extensions, wrenches, spanners and/or adaptors should be used when drilling and installing the roof bolts.
4. Mine superintendents and foremen should emphasize proper use procedures and compliance with all recommendations set forth in the Operator's Manual.
5. The enclosed Fletcher safety posters, part nos. 159685 and 359379, should be prominently displayed so that all persons who have operational or maintenance contact with the machine will be informed.
6. The basics of safe drilling practice should be reinforced to all persons who have operational or maintenance contact with the machine:
 - a. Know the control levers and the function that each activates;
 - b. Understand the direction and speed of each function when activated;
 - c. Know the location and function of each panic switch that deactivates the machine;
 - d. Know the location and function of the hydraulic drill guide;
 - e. Use the hydraulic drill guide when it is available on a mast feed machine;
 - f. Use the shortest starter steel available consistent with the circumstances;
 - g. In preparation for and during drilling, use only those tools that are proper for the task presented;
 - h. If any tool or device (drill steels, bolts, extensions, wrenches, spanner and/or adaptors) becomes jammed, discontinue operations immediately;
 - i. If a mining condition is not familiar, seek guidance before proceeding.
7. Inspect all warning decals on the machine and confirm that they are legible.
8. Review all warning decals with all persons who have operational or maintenance contact with the machine.
9. Confirm that all persons who have operational or maintenance contact with the machine know how and when to shut the machine down.
10. Always check roof and rib conditions to confirm that it is safe to operate the machine.

PLEASE DELIVER A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION BULLETIN TO ALL PERSONNEL WHO HAVE OPERATIONAL OR MAINTENANCE CONTACT WITH THE MACHINE.

If you have any questions regarding the safe operation of any Fletcher roof bolting machine, the substance of this bulletin or its application to the machine in use at your mine, please contact the Fletcher Risk Management Department, at 304/525-7811, ext. 240, or via email at dcooper@jhletcher.com.