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Unapproved electrical animal stunners

There was a recent fatality in Ontario resulting from the use of an unapproved electrical animal stunner. Electrical Safety Authority is concerned that unapproved or altered electrical animal stunners may be in use in Ontario. Any electrical equipment approved for use in the Province of Ontario will bear the approval label of a certification agency or the Electrical Safety Authority.

Direction

Do not use an electrical animal stunner unless it bears one of the approval labels. For a complete list of recognized marks see the ESA web site www.esasafe.com under Electrical Product Safety tab. Do not alter or modify an electrical animal stunner. Use of such equipment can result in serious injury or death.

Background

Electrical animal stunners use bare metal parts energized at voltages up to 600 volts. These devices are used in the meat packing industry to stun animals before they are slaughtered. Most potential users of these devices are unaware of the electrical hazards. Use of unapproved or modified stunners or improper use on any electrical animal stunner can result in serious injury or death.

It is an offence under the Electricity Act and the Ontario Electrical Safety Code to use unapproved equipment or modify approved equipment. Such use is also an offence under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations.

The Electrical Safety Authority will prosecute anyone found in possession of an unapproved or modified electrical animal stunner. For further information contact Electrical Safety Authority at: www.esasafe.com or 1-877-372-7233.
