

<b>Incident:</b>	<b>Absence of safety device on site gang box resulting in serious finger injury</b>	<b>Incident Date:</b>	<b>30/04/2015</b>
------------------	---	-----------------------	-------------------

## Incident Description:

Whilst maneuvering a site gang box within a client site, it was found that it did not fit through a doorway which was in the path of travel. As the handle on the lid prevented it from fitting, the site gang box lid was lifted to give sufficient clearance, however whilst moving through doorway, the lid suddenly dropped onto the worker's left hand resulting in a serious finger injury, requiring surgical repair.

## Photos:

Safety device or circlip

## Immediate/Root Causes:

- Immediately after the incident, the site gang box was inspected and it was found that on the lid side of the strut, the ball joint had been dislodged.
- The safety device known as a 'circlip' which holds the strut ball joint in place could not be found and therefore was not in place at the time of the incident. The manufacturer has advised that a safety circlip, when in place, prevents the strut ball joint from being dislodged.
- The site gang box did not fit through the door due to the protruding handle. This was the only reason the worker lifted the lid, which subsequently dropped causing the injury.

## Immediate Corrective Actions to Prevent Recurrence

- The site gang box involved in the incident was tagged out of service and removed from site immediately.
- The site gang box involved in the incident was fitted with safety circlips to the gas strut to prevent any future dislodgement.
- This Safety Alert is applicable to any Gang Box or Canopy that has gas struts. Please ensure that all gas struts on Gang Boxes and Canopies are inspected for damaged or missing safety devices/circlips and take immediate action to rectify.**

## Long-Term Corrective Action to Prevent Recurrence

- All current and future site gang boxes must be assessed to ensure they are fit for purpose and safe to use. As a minimum but not limited to, considerations should include:
  - Dual gas struts
  - Ability to fit through doorways/openings
  - Ability to be transported with minimal risk (suitable wheels with a locking mechanism)
  - Sufficient handles to maneuver safely

## Fundamental Safe Practices to Remember

- Always ensure equipment is fit for purpose and safe to use.