



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

# IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 105

TO:	<b>ALL OWNERS, OPERATORS AND REBUILDERS OF FLETCHER MACHINES WITH INDEPENDENT LEFT AND RIGHT TRAM LEVERS</b>
FROM:	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT J.H. FLETCHER &amp; CO.</b>
DATE:	<b>AUGUST 2007</b>
SUBJECT:	<b>FOR 2006-07 MACHINES</b>

J.H. Fletcher & Co. has received information that a problem exists with the tram control valve that may cause a machine to continue traveling forward/reverse when the operator releases the lever. The origin and factors contributing to the occurrence of this problem are under investigation.

This phenomenon appears to occur when tramping the machine. If the tram levers are released, one of the levers may not return to center. The machine may then continue to move forward or pivot without any intentional activation of a tram lever by the operator.

J.H. Fletcher & Co. is aware of only a few incidents of this type and all have occurred on new machines shipped within the past year. As of the publication of this notice, this phenomenon has not resulted in injury or death to any operator or bystander.

Therefore, as a precautionary action until J.H. Fletcher & Co. and its component (valve) manufacturers identify the circumstances that cause this malfunction of the control lever, we recommend that you inspect your inventory of Fletcher roof bolting machines and if one was shipped to you within the past year please take the following actions:

1. Re-instruct the operators on the pre-operation check list that is provided with each machine. These steps are outlined in the operator's manual that is located in the tram deck. At the start of shift, each operator must check all hydraulic levers at the tram deck, positioning, and drilling controls to ensure they are in the neutral position before energizing the hydraulic system. Spring return tram and control levers should return to neutral and should be on the same plane as other levers located in the same valve bank.

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE

2. Have your operators thoroughly inspect the entire valve bank assembly. Maintain the levers, clevis pins, E-clips, cotter pins and handle identification tag as originally designed. Check your individual parts book for specific information on the components for this valve.
3. If the tram control lever does stick, J.H. Fletcher & Co. recommends that the machine be immediately stopped and locked out, and the problem reported to the foreman.
4. Check the oil levels and change the oil filters regularly to ensure clean and sufficient oil is being supplied to the hydraulic system.
5. Display this notice and the enclosed poster to notify all operators of the potential problem and that sticking tram control levers should be immediately reported to the supervisor.
6. Train all personnel that absolutely no one should stand between the machine and rib during tramming. Train your operators that when tramming they should keep all parts of their body inside the tram deck during tramming (tag part number 159542).

Whenever a sticking lever is identified, the valve and/or its levers should be replaced. If replacement of the valve does not eliminate the sticking lever problem, contact your Fletcher representative who will review the problem and provide technical assistance. The continued use of a machine with tram control levers that are sticking could result in serious injury or death to personnel.

Fletcher considers this situation an immediate safety concern that requires prompt notification to all maintenance personnel, operators and potential operators of J.H. Fletcher & Co. machinery.

Instructing your operators on the proper method for inspecting their hydraulic tram levers and initiating corrective action if they encounter sticking levers will prevent this type of incident.

**Following the completion of the investigation of this phenomenon, J.H. Fletcher will notify you if a recall of any component part is necessary.**

To obtain additional copies of the poster and/or operator's manuals, call the Risk Management Department and we will ship the items to you at no charge. Additional copies of this Information Bulletin will be provided upon request. Please provide each operator or potential operator with a copy of this Information Bulletin. If, upon inspection, any parts need to be replaced, call J.H. Fletcher & Co. Service Department at (304) 525-7811.