**Issue Number:** TLP 028  
**Title:** London Bridge – Angle Grinder Foot Injury (5th December 2014)  
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**Overview of Event:**  
As part of the conservation and restoration of the Grade 2 listed wall on St Thomas Street façade an operative (restorer) was cutting a horizontal joint in the brickwork with a 5” angle grinder. Whilst doing so the grinder jumped / snagged out of the restorers hand and landed on his foot. The grinding disc cut through the boot and into the operatives foot. The injured party damaged a tendon in his foot and required surgery.

**Diagram/Photo of event:**

Area where wall was being cut  
Grinder  
Cut to IP’s Boot  
Injury to Foot

**Underlying Causes:**  
- Where equipment is supplied by the Principal Contractor they are normally fitted with anti-kick back clutch devices, however this is not mandated on equipment used by sub-contractors  
- The grinder used was not fitted with any mechanical / electrical protection to automatically stop the blade when snagging occurred (anti-kick back)  
- The task briefing could have been more descriptive with regards the risks

**Actions Taken As a Result of Investigation:**  
- The sub-contractor involved is now utilising anti-kick back type grinders  
- The site teams have been briefed on the accident  
- Discussion of the accident will take place at the the next sub-contractors meeting including the use of anti-kick type equipment  
- Future pre-start meetings with sub-contractors will include types of equipment required  
- Awareness training will be given to the site team on how to recognise the anti-kick back type equipment  
- Safety inspections will include checking equipment being used on site  
- Costain and Network Rail (Thameslink) will be developing a common standard for equipment of this type and issuing in due course

**General Key Messages:**  
- Operatives must be trained and competent in the equipment they are required to use as part of the job role / task  
- Only use equipment that is suitable for the task in hand  
- Make sure suitable positioning of the body in relation to the equipment / tools being used is maintained at all times