

# NTPC Health & Safety Alert

## Razor-Style Letter Openers



### Background

In a recent incident a worker was injured while using a razor-style letter opener. While opening mail the letter opener broke in half and struck the workers thumb causing a deep cut.

### Practical Guidance

This style of letter opener contains a sharp razor that makes opening an envelope quick and easy. The razor is surrounded by a plastic cover that prevents fingers from coming into contact with the blade.

However, as these devices age, the plastic becomes more brittle and stress cracks begin to form at the elbow where the razor is attached. As the stress cracks get longer, the chance of the plastic cover breaking becomes greater.

The best option to deal with this hazard is to replace these tools with a safer style of letter opener.

If you continue to use this type of letter opener, it is important to monitor its condition and discard/replace the letter opener if cracks begin to appear.



For more information contact your Health & Safety Department.