

Grinding / Chopping Equipment



ILC Assignment:

- Determine the cause of damage, the extent of damage, and confirm the repair costs associated with the repair of the 2016 Rotochopper MC266 horizontal grinder.

ILC Analysis:

- Grinder was being utilized to pulverize wood.
- A few months after the grinder was purchased new, it suffered several mechanical failures and required substantial service part replacement.
- Since the part replacement, persistent breakdowns have occurred.
- Nearly \$100,000 has been spent for service parts and repairs to keep the grinder operating.
- Three years after the grinder was purchased new, the insured determined that the chopper had suffered a nearly catastrophic failure and could no longer operate.

Summary:

- The long list of failures to the grinder was attributed to continuous operation with a severe vibration due to an improperly repaired main rotor, which was operating out of dynamic balance since the first rotor tooth mount failure.
- ILC concluded that the recent failure of the grinder was the result of improper repairs, a lack of proper and timely maintenance, and user misuse.
- ILC concluded replacement of the machine was not necessary to restore proper operation.
- The required repairs, totaling \$125,967, were the culmination of continued operation of a machine, repaired without adherence to industry-accepted practices or original equipment manufacturer support.