

:: Machine Guards ::

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulation **29CFR1910.212 (a)(1)** states **“One or more methods of machine guarding shall be provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks.”** As a result of this regulation, most machines at worksites today are equipped with guards to prevent injuries to operators. In the past decade, machine guarding has improved drastically. Because of this, fewer employees suffer crushing or laceration injuries that used to occur regularly.

In addition to protecting machine operators, guards are also installed to protect individuals who may be close by. Despite the precautions taken, some machine operators continually find ways to put themselves in danger by removing guards or tampering with interlocks so they can operate the machine more quickly.

At times it is necessary to remove a guard to service or adjust a machine or piece of equipment. **If you are authorized to service or adjust the machine, you should ensure it is turned off and the power switch is locked and/or tagged out. Be sure you have followed proper lockout/tagout procedures. When the service/adjustment is completed, make sure the guard is replaced securely and in proper working order before using the machine.**

To prevent mishaps when working with machines, be careful around:

Meshing gears
In-running rollers
Reciprocating parts
Chain and sprocket drives
Cams and rollers
Belts and pulleys
Flywheels
Cutting or abrasive surfaces
Cooling fans
Conveyor equipment
Rotating couplings and shafts
Hot or overheated parts
Warm gears

For everyone's safety

- Ensure guards are properly replaced after service or maintenance.
- If you see a machine without a guard, or notice another unsafe condition, report it immediately.
- Double check machine guards to ensure they're in place and functioning properly.
- Do not tamper with or remove machine guards.

Remember

- Before you operate any machine, you must be authorized and know how to operate it safely.
- Inspect all equipment before any machine is turned on and operated.
- In addition to ensuring guards are in use, wear appropriate personal protective equipment, or PPE.
- Loose clothing should not be worn around rotating machinery (it can get caught and pull you in).
- Long hair should be contained so it will not get caught in machinery.
- Avoid wearing jewelry, such as rings and necklaces, when operating machinery.

Machine guards are in place for your safety and the safety of others. Ensure the safety of all by keeping machine guards in place and wearing appropriate PPE.

If you have questions or need additional information on machine guards, contact your local safety professional or the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Health & Safety Division at:

717-772-1635