



GROCERY INDUSTRY

MACHINE & EQUIPMENT GUARDING



[OSHA](#) says that workers who operate and maintain machinery experience approximately 800 deaths and 18,000 amputations, lacerations, crushing injuries and abrasions each year due to unguarded or inadequately guarded machines. Machines pose a significant danger, but proper machine guarding can protect workers.

The Importance of Machine Guarding

- Examples of machines usually requiring point of operation guarding include power saws, portable power tools, milling machines, shears, guillotine cutters, and others.
- Examples of machine guarding include barrier guards and two-hand operating devices.
- OSHA says guards must be attached to the machine where possible and secured elsewhere if not possible.
- Guards must not create potential hazards.
- See OSHA Standard for Machinery and Machine Guarding, 1910.212(a).

The Need for Proper Training and Compliance

- Every worker should be thoroughly trained in safety procedures.
- No horseplay should be tolerated around hazardous machinery at any time.
- Workers must be given eye and face protection when exposed to hazards from flying particles, and they should be trained on correct and consistent use of protective gear.
- The FLSA prohibits workers under the age of 18 from operating hazardous powered equipment in non-agricultural occupations.

Lockout and Tagout Procedures

- Machines that turn on unexpectedly can cause severe injury to workers. Lockout and tagout procedures can prevent these incidents from occurring.
- Organizations are responsible for development, implementing and enforcing a safe lockout/tagout program.
- New and overhauled equipment must have a lockout/tagout process.
- Lockout/tagout procedures must be inspected at least once a year.
- Workers must receive adequate training so that they understand and can follow the lockout/tagout procedures.
- See The OSHA standard for The Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout), 1910.147.

Regular Maintenance

- Equipment should be inspected regularly to ensure that it is operating safely.
- If machinery safety guards are missing or the equipment is otherwise unsafe, it must not be used.
- Steps should be taken to ensure that no one uses the equipment.

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