

REQUIREMENTS FOR MACHINE GUARDS

This topic was created to aid you with your regular scheduled safety meetings. This topic was designed to be presented in 5 to 10 minutes with a minimum of preparation. Remember to fill in the documentation section on the reverse side.

Many machine-related injuries occur because of unguarded moving parts. Crushed hands and arms, severed fingers, and blindness are just some of the injuries that can occur when machinery is not guarded.

What must a machine guard do to protect workers against mechanical hazards? Machine guards must meet these general requirements:

Prevent contact—The guard must prevent hands, arms or any other part of the worker's body from making contact with dangerous moving parts.

Protect from falling objects—The guard should ensure that no objects could fall into moving parts.

Create no new hazards—A machine guard defeats its own purpose if it creates a hazard of its own such as a shear point, a jagged edge or an unfinished surface.

Create no interference—Any safeguard which impedes a worker from performing the job quickly and comfortably might soon be overridden or disregarded.

Allow safe lubrication—If possible, one should be able to lubricate the machine without removing the safeguards.

Secure—Workers should not be able to easily remove or tamper with the safeguard.

If your machine guarding is not meeting these requirements, contact the machine's manufacturer. They may be able to assist you with your safeguarding problem.

SAFETY REMINDER:

Both employers and employees should observe safety requirements and good safety practices at all times.