

# **Machine Guarding**

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**Discussion Date:** 

## **TOPIC: Machine Guarding**

#### Introduction

Machine guarding is a very important safety control. Guarding can protect against:

- Debris, particulates and other projectiles from flying out of the machine
- Pinch-points caused by moving components
- People from entering energized work areas
- Machines or components within machines from inadvertently shifting or moving during operations
- Sparks, electrical arcs and internal fires from expanding beyond a controlled area within the machine
- Whipping from broken belts and other materials under high tension or stress
- Using ventilation systems and hoods to reduce or prevent inhalation of hazardous fumes
- Using retaining walls, enclosures and spill containment devices to prevent chemicals, objects and other materials from reaching undesirable areas

### Guidelines for ensuring machine guarding are effective:

- ☑ Ensure the guarding is properly fastened or anchored and not loose.
- ✓ Verify the guarding is strong enough to withstand the expected forces.
- ☑ If the guarding is perforated (for example a fence) then the holes in the guarding should be smaller than the smallest object that could fly from the machine.
- ☑ Always inspect and verify the guarding is adequate before operating the machine.

#### **Questions to Generate Discussion**

What guarding on your machine receives the greatest amount of use? Is it inspected frequently enough to remain safe at all times?

Employee Participants:

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