

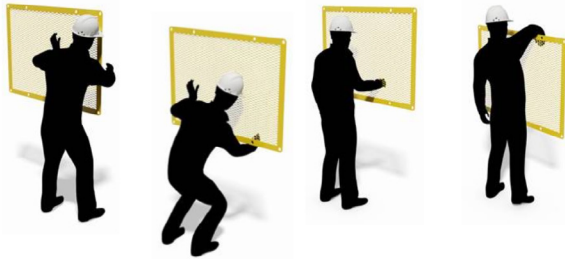
Safety Facts: Machine Safeguarding*

All machines have hazards. Machine motion from care and use can harm workers and the workplace. 35% of injuries related to machine motion are serious. Machine guarding is an important safety measure to protect workers.

Incidents from unguarded machines can cause severe injuries, amputations, and death. Safeguarding is the best way to prevent these types of accidents. Watch a machine in motion and consider how a worker might contact its moving parts.

Why is it important?

Adequate guards will ensure the worker is not hurt while using machinery. If a worker can reach **Around, Under, Through, or Over (AUTO)** a guard then it is not effective.



Around

Under

Through

Over

Cutting, shearing, traversing, rotating, and reciprocating are dangerous types of machine motion. Review these motions first in any machine hazard assessment. You must also look at what the machine does to understand all possible hazards. If the machine uses pneumatics or hydraulics, or has pinch and shear points, there may be additional hazards to consider.

Machine hazards

Mechanical motions occur in combination in most machines. Many mechanical motions can harm workers. These can include:

- rotating members
- reciprocating arms
- moving belts
- meshing gears
- cutting teeth
- any parts that impact or shear

Controlling hazards

Choose safeguarding controls from most effective to least effective. A risk assessment will determine what you need to meet the standard. Eliminate risks when possible.

Choose a less effective safeguard only when a more effective one is impracticable. You may eliminate the need to hand-feed a machine with an automated feeder. A fixed barrier guard across a feed point may be practicable if the feed stock is a flat sheet metal blank. Larger material may need access at the point of operation using two-hand controls or a light curtain instead.

The right safeguarding can provide good protection to workers during normal use. Safeguarding is not a substitute for lock out when clearing blocks or doing maintenance.

Types of safeguards

A safeguard can be one or more of six solutions that remove or reduce the risks of dangerous machinery.

- Barrier guards
- Safeguarding devices
- Location
- Administrative means
- Training and procedures
- Personal protective equipment

Machine safeguarding assessment

Perform a safeguarding risk assessment to understand your risk level and safeguards needed. There are many types of risk assessments. Choose one that will help you find the solutions that meet the requirements of the legal standard.



For additional resources visit:

Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC: safetyalliancebc.ca

