

Use of Machine Guards

Machine guards are used to:

- Protect workers from coming into direct contact with moving parts.
- Protect against flying chips, kickbacks and splashing of metal or harmful liquids.

Two types of guards are used to protect machine operators:

- Fixed guards
 - Are most commonly used and are preferred over others because they protect from dangerous parts of machines at all times.
 - May only be adjusted by authorized persons.
- Interlocking guards
 - Are used if a fixed guard is not practical.
 - Will not allow the machine to operate until dangerous parts are guarded; they are designed to disconnect the source of power from the machine.
- Safety devices such as pullbacks, sweeps and electronic devices are used where neither a fixed nor an interlocking guard can be used satisfactorily.
- It is important that everyone working with, or around machinery, understands the safety procedures for this type of work.
- No guard should be adjusted or removed unless permission is given by the supervisor, or the employee concerned is specifically trained and the adjustment is considered a normal part of the job.
- No machine should be started without guards in place. Report all missing or defective guards to supervision immediately!
- When guards or safety devices are removed for repair or adjustment, all power sources for the machine should be neutralized, locked and tagged out.
- Loose clothing, neckties, watches, rings or other jewelry should not be worn around mechanical equipment.