1.16 | Automated Equipment
MEETING DOCUMENTATION

COMPANY NAME:

MEETING DATE:

TIME / SHIFT:

LOCATION:

CONDUCTED BY:

ATTENDEES:

SAFETY REMINDER

Missing, altered, or damaged safeguards should be reported to management immediately so action can be taken to prevent worker injury.

Safeguarding Automated Equipment

Today, many manufacturing environments utilize high-tech automated equipment to answer the demand for increased production and to perform work tasks that require precision movements. This new equipment is not without hazards. Ideally, the worst hazards are identified and removed when the equipment is being designed—however, this is not always possible. When a hazard can't be designed out of the equipment, then machine engineers must protect workers by guarding the dangerous moving parts of the equipment. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) created standards covering machine guarding to protect workers (see 29 CFR 1910.211-219).

According to OSHA, a good rule of thumb is: Any machine part, function, or process that may cause injury must be safeguarded. When either the operation of a machine or accidental contact with it can injure the operator or others in the vicinity, the hazards must be either controlled or eliminated.

Regardless of the method used to protect the worker, if machine guarding techniques are used, they must meet the following general requirements.

Prevent contact: The safeguard must prevent hands, arms, and any other part of the worker's body from making contact with dangerous moving parts. A good safeguarding system eliminates the possibility of the operator or another worker placing parts of their bodies near hazardous moving parts.

Secure: Workers should not be able to easily remove or tamper with the safeguard; a safeguard that can easily be made ineffective is no safeguard at all. Guards and safety devices should be made of durable material that will withstand the conditions of normal use. They must be firmly secured.

Protect from falling objects: The safeguard should ensure that no objects can fall into moving parts. A small tool which is dropped into a cycling machine could easily become a projectile that could strike and injure someone.

Create no new hazards: A safeguard defeats its own purpose if it creates a hazard of its own—such as a shear point, a jagged edge, or an unfinished surface which can cause a laceration. The edges of guards, for instance, should be rolled or bolted in such a way that sharp edges are eliminated.

Create no interference: Any safeguard which impedes a worker from performing the job quickly and comfortably might soon be overridden or disregarded. Proper safeguarding can actually enhance efficiency since it can relieve a worker's apprehensions about injury.

Allow safe lubrication: If possible, one should be able to lubricate the machine without removing the safeguards. Locating oil fill tubes and reserves outside guards, with a line leading to the lubrication point, will reduce the need for operators or maintenance workers to put their hands in hazardous areas.

Notes

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