



Risk Control at United Fire Group | riskcontrol@unitedfiregroup.com | 800-828-2705

Machine guarding safety checklist

SAFETY CHECKLIST	YES	NO	NI*
Is guarding in place to protect point of operation, power transmission, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and/or sparks?			
Is there a training program to instruct employees on safe methods of machine operation?			
Is there adequate supervision to ensure that employees are following safe machine operating procedures?			
Is there a regular program of safety inspection of machinery and equipment?			
Is all machinery and equipment kept clean and properly maintained?			
Is sufficient clearance provided around and between machines to allow for safe operations, set up and servicing, material handling and waste removal?			
Is equipment and machinery securely anchored to prevent tipping or other movement, resulting in personal injury?			
Is there a power shut-off switch within the operator's reach at each machine?			
Can electrical power to each machine be locked out for maintenance, repair, or security?			
Are foot-operated switches guarded or arranged to prevent accidental actuation by personnel or falling objects?			
Are manually operated valves and switches that control the operation of equipment and machines clearly identified and readily accessible?			
Are all emergency stop buttons colored red?			
Are all pulleys and belts within 7 feet (2.1336 meters) of the floor or working level properly guarded?			
Are all moving chains and gears properly guarded?			
Do machines that use coolant have splash guards to prevent the coolant from reaching employees?			
Are methods provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards, such as flying chips and sparks, created at the point of operation, ingoing nip points or rotating parts?			

*NI = Needs improvement

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Are machine guards secure and arranged so they do not cause a hazard while in use?			
If special hand tools are used for placing and removing material, do they protect the operator's hands?			
Are revolving drums, barrels and containers guarded by an enclosure that is interlocked with the drive mechanism, so that revolution cannot occur unless the guard enclosure is in place?			
After a power failure or shutdown, Are provisions made to prevent machines from automatically starting when power is restored?			
Are machines free from excessive vibration when the largest size tool is mounted and run at full speed?			
When machinery is cleaned with compressed air, is the air pressure controlled and PPE or other safeguards utilized to protect operators and other workers from eye and bodily injury?			
Are fan blades protected with a guard having openings no larger than I/2 inch (1.2700 centimeters) when operating within 7 feet (2.1336 meters) of the floor?			
Are saws used for ripping equipped with anti-kickback devices and spreaders?			
Are radial arm saws arranged so that the cutting head will gently return to the back of the table when released?			
If the power disconnect for equipment does not also disconnect the electrical control circuit, are the appropriate electrical enclosures identified and is a means provided to ensure that the control circuit can also be disconnected and locked out?			
Is the locking out of control circuits instead of locking out main power disconnects prohibited?			
Are all equipment control valve handles provided with a means for locking out?			

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Does the lockout procedure require that stored energy (mechanical, hydraulic, air, etc.) be released or blocked before equipment is locked out for repairs?			
Are appropriate employees provided with individually keyed personal safety locks?			
Are employees required to keep personal control of their key(s) while they have safety locks in use?			
Is it required that only the employee exposed to the hazard can place or remove the safety lock?			
Are employees required to check the safety of the lockout by attempting a startup after making sure no one is exposed?			
Are employees instructed to always push the control circuit stop button prior to re-energizing the main power switch?			
Is there a means provided to identify any or all employees who are working on locked-out equipment by their locks or accompanying tags?			
Are a sufficient number of accident prevention signs or tags and safety padlocks provided for any reasonably foreseeable repair emergency?			
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Comments/recommendations:			

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