

Safety Sheet 13 – Machine Guarding

Consult the *Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act and its Regulation; in particular, Regulation 851 (sections 24-42)* for detailed information on machine guarding. Note, some equipment / machine(s) will require additional safety devices.

Guards are required and designed to restrict access to moving parts and motors that may endanger the safety of a worker. Guards must comply with specific standards to adequately protect against inherent risks from the equipment and its use. You may be able to obtain proper guards from the company / supplier who constructed or sold the equipment. However, for older equipment with no guards available, there are two options: (1) replace / buy new equipment or (2) request a Certified Safety Engineer to conduct a Pre-Start Review of your equipment (see [Section 7 of Regulation 851](#)).

A **guard** is defined as a *physical* barrier that prevents access to a dangerous area

A **competent person** is defined by the Ontario Occupational Health & Safety Act as a person who (i) is qualified because of knowledge, training and experience to organize the work and its performance; (ii) is familiar with this Act and the regulations that apply to the work and (iii) has knowledge of any potential or actual danger to health & safety in the workplace.

Section 24 of Ontario Regulation 851 states:

24. *Where a machine or prime mover or transmission equipment has an exposed moving part that may endanger the safety of any worker, the machine or prime mover or transmission equipment shall be equipped with and guarded by a guard or other device that prevents access to the moving part.*

Guarding Requirements for Machinery - A Safety Guard shall:

- Prevent workers from gaining access to all moving parts (chains, gears, pulleys, sprockets, flywheels, belts etc.);
- Be firmly secured to the machine;
- Be installed so that items or things cannot fall into, or shoot out from the machine's moving parts;
- Be designed to permit safe operation of the machine;
- Be designed to allow for maintenance of the machine when required / scheduled;
- Be equipped with an automatic shut off when the guard is removed or opened;
- Restrict access to moving parts and pinch points;
- Offer safer / more practical solutions;
- Eliminate the point(s) of entry into the machine;
- Also guard auxiliary parts of the machine; and
- Never add another risk

Training

- Ensure that operators are adequately trained prior to operating the machinery;

- The operator training should incorporate practical training and workplace specific examples from your work area; and
- Review Emergency & Reporting procedures in the event of an accident, incident, or near miss.

Protective Equipment

- Shall be worn / used when required;
- Ensure it is appropriate for the job at hand (Just because it is CSA approved does not mean that it is adequate for your task).
- No loose fitting clothing / jewelry etc.; and
- Operational controls / emergency stop button are conspicuously identified and within easy reach of the operator.

Maintenance

- Guards shall be adequately maintained and replaced when necessary; and
- Ensure that the power source is locked out prior to commencing any maintenance work