September 2023
IN TOUCH
EHS Newsletter

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Health
Safety

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CONTACT US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES FOR YOUR BUSINESS:

- EHS Risk Assessments
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- Ergonomics Surveys
- EHS Management System Development and Implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS Legal Requirements and Compliance Audits
- Construction EHS Services
- Construction H&S Files
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training

Department of Employment and Labour Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

sanas Inspection Body
OH0049

OHAIA association
OHAIA-A 005 (2023)

Safetrain cc t/a Safetech is a SANAS Accredited Inspection Body
Refer to www.sanas.co.za for Schedule of Accreditation

HAZARDS OF MACHINE MOVING PARTS

Unguarded machines and equipment are among the biggest hazards for workers, where fingers, arms, hair and other body parts can be caught or entangled. Protective clothing worn by workers, such as gloves, overalls and aprons can be caught and pulled into the machine.

Workers who are not properly trained in how to safely work with moving parts are at an increased risk of being injured by them. Some of the most common injuries include:

amputations, lacerations, crush injuries, death, burns, shock, fractures, dislocations, sprains and blindness.

Machine Guards

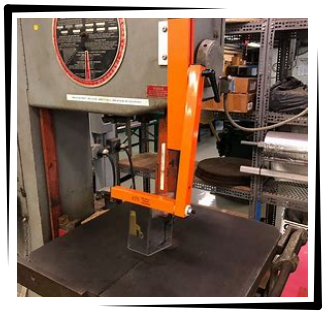
Machine guards are used to prevent any contact between a machine's moving parts and the worker. They are also used to contain fragments and particles released by a machine. They are essential for protecting workers from needless and preventable injuries.

Hazards must be controlled or eliminated when the operation of a machine or accidental contact with it can injure the operator or others in the vicinity. Any machine part, function or process which may cause injury must be machine guarded.

TYPES OF MACHINE GUARDS

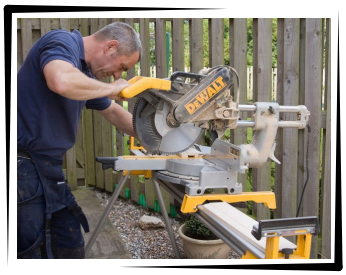
1 Fixed Guards

Fixed guards are permanent. They cannot be moved and do not have any moving parts. They cannot be moved when the machine is in use and must be disassembled and removed to perform any adjustment or maintenance.



2 Movable Guards

These guards are permanent, but they can be adjusted. Employees working with movable guards must be taught how to correctly adjust and secure them. If not installed correctly, these guards will fail to protect workers from coming into contact with hazardous moving parts, resulting in serious or fatal injuries.



3 Self-Adjustable Movable Guards

They provide a similar function to manually operated guards, but automatically adjust to the size of the material. The guard will be fully lowered when the machine is not in use. When the machine is running, the operator will input the material, which will cause the guard to open just enough to allow the item to enter. These guards are usually seen on woodworking tools.

4 Interlocking Movable Guards

Interlocking movable guards should be used in places where access is frequent.The design of these guards is such that, when any part of it is missing or not working, the machinery will not operate. This ensures that hazardous machinery functions are not initiated until they are securely shut; or that they immediately issue a stop command when they are no longer closed.

Remote disconnect switches, also called barrier guards, are designed to cut the power when the guard is opened or removed. This is especially helpful when access to the guarded parts of a machine is required, such as when attempting to remove clogs. The guards enable safe entry to internal components of the machine without having to dismantle it entirely.

Different types of guards are used in different settings, based on safety requirements. It is necessary to perform a risk assessment in order to decide which one to use. Protect workers by employing robust machine guarding, adhering to safety protocols and fostering a culture of safety vigilance.

CONTACT SAFETECH TO CONDUCT A MACHINE GUARDING SURVEY AT YOUR SITE.

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HIGH RISK HEALTH & SAFETY HAZARDS WHEN WORKING IN A FACTORY

People working in a factory environment will be familiar with the hazards in and around their workplace. However, there are the hidden dangers of familiarity and complacency, which could result in an accident or injury. Below is a checklist of some of the key hazards in a factory environment:

1. **Slips and Trips**
Flooring should be kept clear, clean and tidy to help minimise the risk of slips and trips. It is also important that employees wear safety shoes which have anti-slip soles as opposed to just toe protection.

2. **Vehicular Hazards**
The issues from an incident involving a vehicle and a pedestrian are potentially fatal. Walkways need to be clearly marked and kept clear at all times and copies of the routes should be readily available and well displayed, as well as issued to all employees and visiting contractors.

3. **Working at Heights**
The most dangerous health and safety issue is working at around ceiling height, due to the short distance to impact. Working platforms should be used correctly at all times.

4. **Moving Heavy Objects**
When transporting heavy objects, it is important that employees follow sensible lifting / carrying techniques but employers can reduce the risk of staff by providing appropriate equipment.

5. **Moving Parts of Machinery**
All moving parts which could cause harm should be guarded. The guards and protective equipment used should be checked at least once a month and work should cease if a problem occurs or is noted.

6. **Electricity**
Shocks and burns from faulty or exposed electrical items are a safety issue. All appliances should be tested and certified safe and a planned maintenance inspection schedule of all machinery appliances should be undertaken.

7. **Confined Space Working**
Enclosed spaces are not the only potential hazards: open chambers, vats, combustion chambers in a furnace, ductwork and even poorly ventilated rooms can soon become hazardous. The first safety rule is to avoid entering the confined space; but if this is unavoidable, the risk of entrapment must be mitigated.

8. **Fire Escape Routes**
All staff and visitors on site should be aware of the current and latest fire escape routes and assembly points. Fire safety officers should undergo training at least once a year and drills should be mandatory. Signage should be up to date, visible and in working order at all times.

The most efficient way of working safely is to make regular and routine checks, whilst fostering a culture that challenges unsafe working.

Waste management in South Africa is governed by the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008

Waste means any substance (whether or not that substance can be reduced, reused, recycled or recovered) :

- that is surplus, unwanted, rejected, discarded, abandoned or disposed of
- which the generator has no further use of, for the purposes of production
- that may be treated or disposed of
- has been identified as a waste by the Minister by notice in the Gazette and includes waste generated by the mining, medical or other sector

South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC) provides the public, business, industry and government with access to information on the management of waste in South Africa. The Centre also provides users with access to the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS). which was developed by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in 2005 and is used by government and industry to capture routine data on the tonnages of waste generated, recycled and disposed of in South Africa on a monthly and annual basis.

Before registering with the Central Registry of the Department of Environmental Affairs, companies should check that their site and/or activities have not already been registered - http://cr.environment.gov.za/howto.php

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