

Report a machine that is missing the guard, or has an inoperative guard. It is unsafe to operate the machine until the guard is replaced or repaired. A missing or inoperative guard may need to be replaced or repaired before work can safely proceed.

If unexpected start-up could cause injury, use a lockout/tagout program. Any major repairs or tool changes that would expose workers to the machine's hazards require lockout/tagout.

Employee Training

Although OSHA does not specify training requirements under the machine guarding regulations, the General Duty Clause requires that employers provide a safe work environment. Employees who are knowledgeable about machine hazards are safer workers.

Training Tips

- Review 29 CFR 1910 Subpart O—Machinery and machine guarding.
- Using the handout, review the purpose of machine guards.
- Describe the types of guards used at your facility, in a particular department or in a specific piece of equipment.
- Discuss any injuries or close calls that your machine operators or mechanics have had. Ask the trainees to think of ways to prevent the accident or near miss from being repeated.
- Explain who at the facility should be contacted with reports of missing or damaged guards.
- Refer to the company lockout/tagout program, and when it is required to be used.

For more information see 29 CFR 1910 Subpart O—Machinery and Machine Guarding.
