

Machine Guarding

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The OSHA standard for *Machine Guarding*, Title 29 CFR 1910.212 is one of the most frequently cited OSHA standards. About 3.5 percent of all OSHA violations involve failure to provide and use proper safety guarding procedures.

Overview of Standard

This standard covers the general safety requirements for how and when to use machine guards. Basically, employers must place guards over or in front of a machine's moving parts.

Top 5 Sections of Standard Cited by OSHA

- Failure to provide machine guarding - 1910.212(a)(1)
- Failure to guard the point of operation of machine - 1910.212(a)(3)(ii)
- Failure to anchor fixed machinery - 1910.212(b)
- Failure to guard exposed blades - 1910.212(a)(5)
- Failure to affix guards to machine - 1910.212(a)(2)

The following are the specific requirements of each element of the standard most frequently cited by OSHA.

Failure to provide machine guarding 1910.212(a)(1)

Types of guarding. One or more methods of machine guarding shall be provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks. Examples of guarding methods are-barrier guards, two-hand tripping devices, electronic safety devices, etc.

Failure to guard the point of operation of machine 1910.212(a)(3)(ii)

The point of operation of machines whose operation exposes an employee to injury, shall be guarded. The guarding device shall be in conformity with any appropriate standards therefore, or, in the absence of applicable specific standards, shall be so designed and constructed as to prevent the operator from having any part of his body in the danger zone during the operating cycle.

Failure to anchor fixed machinery 1910.212(b)

Anchoring fixed machinery. Machines designed for a fixed location shall be securely anchored to prevent walking or moving.

Failure to guard exposed blades 1910.212(a)(5)

Exposure of blades. When the periphery of the blades of a fan is less than seven (7) feet above the floor or working level, the blades shall be guarded. The guard shall have openings no more than one-half (1/2) inch.

Failure to affix guards to machine 1910.212(a)(2)

General requirements for machine guards. Guards shall be affixed to the machine where possible and secured elsewhere if for any reason attachment to the machine is not possible. The guard shall be such that it does not offer an accident hazard in itself.

Are you in compliance with these elements of the *Machine Guarding* standard?