

HAZARD ALERT

Machine Guarding

21 October 2014

REFERENCE:

WHS Act 2012

WHS Regulations 2012, Plant and structures - Chapter 5 – Regulation 189 - Guarding

Code of Practice – Managing the risks of plant in the workplace.

CSH&WSA Document 15: Management of Plant

OBJECTIVE:

To manage the health and safety risk associated with plant, prevent unauthorized alterations to or interference with plant, and to use plant only for the purpose for which it is designed.

Plant includes any machinery, equipment, appliance, implement and tool, and includes any component or anything fitted or connected to any of those things. Plant includes items as diverse as lifts, cranes, computers, machinery, conveyors, forklifts, power tools and amusement structures.

BACKGROUND

It has been identified through a plant audit that inappropriate or no guarding has been present on some equipment in our work sites.

MACHINE GUARDING – PREVENTATIVE ACTION

As Document 15 Plant Procedure states –

- All plant and equipment is to be risk assessed.
- Machine guarding is an effective engineering control which must be considered to ensure a safe working environment for all our staff and students.

A guard is a physical or other barrier that can perform several functions, including:

- Preventing contact with moving parts or controlling access to dangerous areas of plant.
- Screening harmful emissions such as radiation.
- Minimising noise through the application of sound absorbing materials.
- Preventing ejected parts or cut offs from striking people.

GUARDING MUST:

- Be of solid construction and securely mounted so as to resist impact or shock.
- Prevent by-passing or disabling of the guard.
- Be properly maintained.
- Control any risk from potential broken or ejected parts and work pieces.
- Allow for servicing, maintenance and repair to be undertaken with relative ease.
- If guarding is removed the plant cannot be restarted unless the guarding is replaced.
- Not create a risk in itself (for example it must not obstruct operator visibility, weaken the plant, cause discomfort to operators or introduce new hazards such as pinch points, rough or sharp edges).

**FOR ENQUIRIES OR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CATHOLIC
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