

Mechanical Safety

Machines used on the farm must be assembled, operated, inspected, serviced and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications. Anyone operating or maintaining equipment must be competent.

Any machine that has a defect is not to be operated until repaired or replaced. Any equipment considered to be defective must be clearly labeled and locked out where applicable.

Anyone working near equipment with a source of entanglement (e.g. belt, PTO, gear) must wear appropriate clothing and have hair tied up to prevent entanglement.

Safeguards

Where there is a chance of someone coming in contact with a moving part, or being struck by an object from a machine or tool, an employer must ensure an adequate safeguard is installed (e.g. guard, shield, guardrail, fence, barrier or safety net).

If an access door exposes the moving parts of a machine, employers must ensure the door is fitted with interlocks that:

- Prevent the door from opening while parts are in motion.
- Disconnect the power causing the moving parts to stop when the door is open.

Where interlocks are not reasonable, a written work procedure must be developed.

If a safeguard is not feasible, the employer must:

- Ensure a push block/stick is used.
- Establish a written work procedure.

A safeguard should not be removed, unless:

- Removal is necessary for cleaning, maintenance or repair.
- The machine is locked out.
- The safeguard is replaced and functioning properly before leaving the machine.

Starting and Stopping Machines

Employers must ensure that machines are designed to prevent unintentional movement that could be a hazard to someone at the workplace. Therefore, all machine controls must be located, protected and identified so that someone is not able to unintentionally start the machine.

If there is a likelihood of an unattended machine creating a hazard, it must be equipped with a "hold to operate" or "dead man's switch." This will shut off the equipment when the pressure on the device is released (e.g. handle on a pressure washer).

If there are situations on the farm where there is not always a clear view of a machine or moving parts from the control panel, the employer is responsible to:

- Ensure an alarm system is installed that has an adequate delay and will serve as a warning to those in the workplace that the machine is going to start-up.
- Ensure that anyone starting the machine will do a visual inspection of the exterior to ensure no person will be endangered by the start-up.

Chain Saws

Chain saws are commonly used on farms, although not always on a regular basis. It is extremely important for farmers to ensure whoever is using the chain saw understands how to use it properly and that the saw is in good condition with all protective guards and devices in place. Operators must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

All chain saws used must comply with the CSA Standard (CSA Z62).

For more information on the use of chainsaws, visit Forestry Safety Society of Nova Scotia website (www.fss.ns.ca) or contact Farm Safety Nova Scotia (farmsafetyns.ca) for training.

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Conveyors

Conveyors used to transport material must be constructed and installed so that:

- There is sufficient clearance between the material transported and any fixed or moving object.
- Pinch points are adequately guarded.
- The conveyor does not feed onto a stopped, power-driven conveyor unless written work procedures are established.
- There are guards or barriers installed to protect those below from falling material.
- A conveyor used to carry a load up an incline must have an anti-rollback device installed.

Emergency stop devices must be installed at appropriate locations along the run of the conveyor.

Do not cross over a conveyor unless there is an identified crossing point.

Do not ride on the conveyor or stand on the conveyor frame unless the conveyor has been locked out.

Abrasive Wheels and Grinders

Before using an abrasive wheel, it must be inspected for flaws, defects or cracks. Never grind on the side of an abrasive wheel or adjust a tool rest while the abrasive wheel is in motion.

When using pneumatic grinders, governors must be maintained by a competent person.

Bench and pedestal grinders must have the appropriate protective hood, a side shield installed, and a tool rest (within 3 mm from abrasive wheel). The grinder must be secured to prevent unintended movements.

Any abrasive wheel or grinder must have the maximum number of revolutions per minute posted on the wheel and grinder to ensure that the grinder is always used with the appropriate abrasive wheel.

Compressed Air Used for Cleaning

Only a device manufactured and approved for the purpose of using compressed air to clean a surface or person should be used. A “quiet” nozzle with pressure less than 10 psi should be used.

Space Heating Equipment

Space heating equipment used on the farm must be located, inspected and maintained in a manner to prevent unintended ignition of any material. If a space heater is powered by combustible fuel, it must be located on non-combustible flooring/material.

DISCLAIMER:

This fact sheet is a general overview for information purposes only. Farmers must reference legislation to ensure compliance.