

SafeWork SA

information > advice > support



Farm Guarding

Image: Making Our Farms Safer

A guard (e.g. shield, cover, casing, physical or electronic barrier) is intended to prevent contact between hazardous moving parts and any part of a person, or their clothing.

Guards are needed for:

- Any moving part or rotating shaft, gear, cable, sprocket, chain, clutch, coupling, cam or fan blade
- Any crushing or shearing points (e.g. augers, slide blocks, roller feeds or conveyor feeds)
- Ground wheels and track gear
- Any machine component which cuts, grinds, pulps, crushes, breaks or pulverises farm produce
- Hot parts where the surface temperature exceeds 120 degrees in normal operation.
- Any part of a machine with the risk of ejected parts.

To prevent injury:

- Always use the manufacturers guards and shields
- Replace unguarded machinery with guarded machinery where possible
- Check that older machinery is adequately guarded and retrofit where necessary
- Check that all users can use the machinery safely and are fully instructed about safe procedures for guarding, isolation devices, locks and danger tips
- Never carry out repairs or maintenance when a machine is running
- Use a lockout procedure and tag out devices to prevent machinery being accidentally started during maintenance
- Have a checklist/procedure for maintenance jobs, which includes safely replacing the guard
- Routinely inspect and maintain all plant and equipment, and have a comprehensive inspection conducted at least once a year or as per manufacturers specifications
- Keep all service, maintenance and inspection records
- Keep children away from machinery and teach them that machinery is not play equipment.

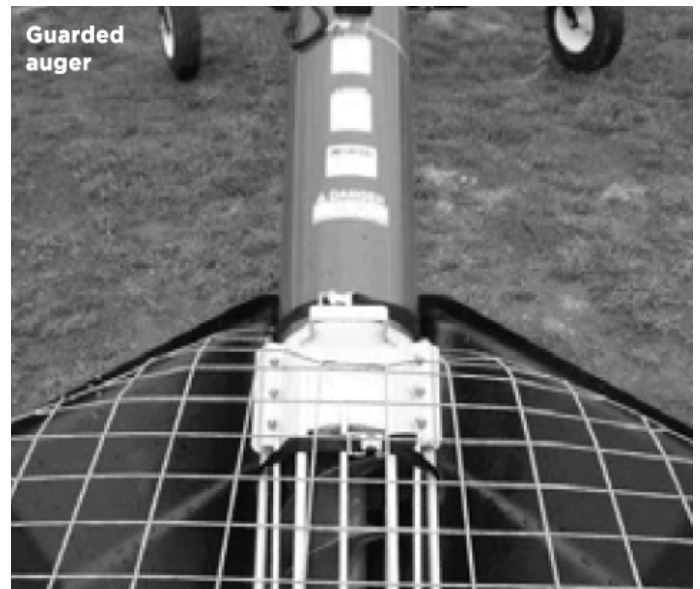
Guard Design

The primary function of a guard is to provide a physical barrier which prevents access to hazardous moving parts of a machine.

- Design must facilitate removal and replacement for tasks such as cleaning, machine adjustment or belt changes
- Guards must be designed so that they can only be removed with the aid of a tool or a key (Regulation 189 & 208 of the WHS Regulations)
- Hinged guards should be interlocked or require a tool or key to open.
- Good design can aid dust and noise reduction.

For further information

- [Code of Practice - Managing the Risks of Plant and Equipment in the Workplace](#)
- Australian Standard AS4024 - Machine guarding



PTO Shaft guard

