



# SAFETY BRIEF

## MACHINE GUARDS

Operating machinery without machine guards can be extremely dangerous and may result in amputations. Proper machine safeguarding can protect the machine operator and other workers in the area from hazards created by rotating parts, in-running nip points and saws.

### SAFETY TIPS

- Do not operate a machine without all guards in place
- Do not remove guards without your supervisor's permission
- Do not modify equipment
- Do not adjust guards while the machine is in operation
- Immediately replace missing or removed guards

### 4 TYPES OF MACHINE GUARDS

1. **Fixed**—Permanently attached to equipment
  - Requires minimal maintenance
  - Suitable for high production and repetitive operations
  - Can interfere with visibility
  - Adjusting the machine requires guard removal
2. **Interlocked**—Machine shuts off once guard is removed
  - Easy access to remove jams
  - Requires careful adjustments
  - Routine maintenance required
3. **Adjustable**—Manually adjusts to accommodate different material sizes
  - Easily adjustable
  - Suitable for multiple, specific applications
  - Requires frequent maintenance
4. **Self-Adjusting**—Opening of guard adjusts based on the movement and size of the material
  - Replacement guards are easy to find
  - Provides less protection than other guards
  - May interfere with visibility



Home Office: 717 Mulberry St. | Des Moines, IA 50309 | 800-447-2295 | [www.emcins.com](http://www.emcins.com) | 

Disclaimer: This material is designed and intended for general information purposes only, and is not intended, nor shall be construed or relied upon, as specific legal advice.  
©Copyright Employers Mutual Casualty Company 2017. All rights reserved. RI0359