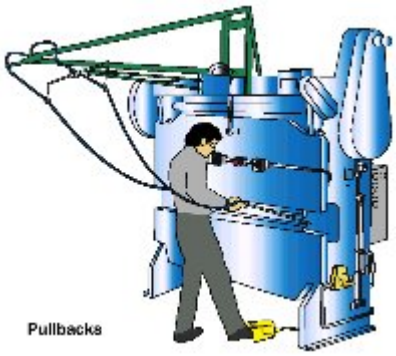
Pullback Restraints

What Are Pullback Restraints?

Pullback restraints are safeguarding devices typically used in press applications. They may be used in any manufacturing application to prevent accidental contact with the point of operation. Pullback restraints operate in a similar manner to push button devices and light screens/curtains in that they prevent access to hazardous areas.


Pullbacks

Pullbacks are typically used in applications where an operator must place a part or product to be processed in a machine at the point of operation. The operator can reach into the machine, but as soon as the machine is activated the steel pullback cables automatically pull the operator's hands out of harms way. Pullbacks are considered fail-safes only and do not replace proper safety precautions in machine operation.

Important Considerations

If you currently have pullback restraints or may implement them in the future, consider the following.

- Employees must be trained on proper pullback usage and the operating hazards associated with machine functions.
- Pullbacks should be used as a safeguard only. The best practice is to manually remove one's hand from the point of operation.
- Pullback devices must be fit to each individual operator and each process prior to the start of daily operations.
- Documentation is extremely important and should include records of daily adjustments and any inspections completed.
- All components of the pullback device should be inspected on a periodic basis. This includes confirming that there is no fraying on steel cables, pulley systems are operating correctly, and wrist straps are not damaged.
- Be sure to post safe-operating procedures in a clearly visible area.
- Ensure that pullbacks are working in conjunction with the machine or operation that is being safe-guarded. When the machine activates, pullbacks should clear the operator's hands in a timely fashion. This inspection can be completed by the individual or contractor who regularly maintains the piece of machinery.
- Supervision is also very important. Safeguards such as pullbacks only work if the operator is wearing them.

Conclusion

Pullbacks are very effective safe-guarding systems if they are set-up correctly and maintained appropriately. However, if proper maintenance and use are ignored, significant injury could occur.

For additional assistance and or resources, please contact Rob Bolduc, Loss Control Consultant with FutureComp at robert.bolduc@usi.biz.

References: http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/machineguarding/presses/pullbacks.html