Safeguard Requirements

Safeguards must meet these minimum general requirements:

- **Prevent contact** - A good safeguarding system eliminates the possibility of the operator or another worker placing parts of their bodies near hazardous moving parts.

- **Secure** - Guards and safety devices should be made of durable material that will withstand the conditions of normal use. They must be firmly secured to the machine.

- **Protect from falling objects** - A small tool that is dropped into a cycling machine could easily become a projectile that could strike and injure someone.

- **Create no new hazards** - A safeguard defeats its own purpose if it creates a hazard of its own such as a shear point, a jagged edge, or an unfinished surface that can cause a laceration. The edges of guards, for instance, should be rolled or bolted in such a way that they eliminate sharp edges.
Any machine part, function, or process that may cause amputation or other injury must be safeguarded. Remember also, new equipment does not necessarily have the guards on the machine required by TOSHA. If not properly guarded, it is the employer's responsibility to add the necessary guarding to protect the employee.

Areas of Safeguarding

Basic Areas Requiring Safeguarding

The Point of Operation - The point where work is performed on the materials, such as pressing, cutting, shaping, boring, or forming of stock.

- **Power Transmission Apparatus** - All components of the mechanical system that transmit energy to the part of the machine performing the work. These components include flywheels, pulleys, belts, connecting rods, couplings, cams, spindles, chains, cranks, and gears.

- **Other Moving Parts** - All parts of the machine that move while the machine is working. These can include reciprocating, rotating, and transverse moving parts, as well as feed mechanisms and auxiliary parts of the machine.

Remember the AUTO Principle

If you can reach an existing guard - it's not effective!

A guard must prevent a worker's hands or any part of the body from going around, under, through, or over the guard and entering the dangerous moving parts of the machine.