GLASS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
The Voice of the Glazing Industry

800 SW Jackson Street, Ste. 1500
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Safety Bulletin: January 2017

Let's Talk About Safety

Date _____

Location _____

Discussion Leader _____

Agenda: The Purpose of Machine Guarding

Glass and glass products are used in many applications in both consumer and commercial applications, and to meet the huge demand for these products, specialized machinery and equipment is used. These devices were designed and created to perform tasks more quickly and accurately than any worker ever could, increasing production and improving quality of product. Even though these machines have greatly improved the industry, they still can present some unique hazards to workers who operate, or work around them.

Machine guarding is a process of protecting workers from hazardous machine parts or actions, and is required by OSHA's general industry standard (29 CFR 1910 Subpart O). Machine guarding is "a barrier that prevent entry of the operator's hands or fingers into the point of operation." The machines in your facility likely have many safety features, including manufactured machine guards. It is important to know what hazards your equipment presents and how guards are effective in protecting operators.

Hazards

Certain parts of machinery present hazards, such as:

- Point of operation
- In-running nip points
- Pinch points
- Power transmission
- Other moving parts

Certain mechanical motions or actions present hazards, such as:

- Rotating motion (spinning)
- Reciprocating motion (back and forth)
- Transverse motion (continuous one-direction movement)

Specific hazardous activities working with glass can include:

- Cutting
- Scoring
- Beveling
- Edging
- Washing
- Tempering
- Extruding
- Transporting (lifts and conveyors)

Guards

Guards are designed to do the following:

- Prevent contact with the hazard
- Be of sturdy design and construction, and not be easy to remove or defeat
- Protect from falling, spraying, flying objects
- Must not create a new hazard
- Create no interference to intended operation
- Allow for safe maintenance and adjustment

Your machines may utilize various types of guards, but the most crucial part of a guard is its proper use during operation. Guards are in place to protect you from injury or death, but sadly, some individuals will remove, defeat, or bypass guards. People who do this claim it is done to work in a “faster” (though unsafe) manner, or to do something that the guards prevent that is needed to get the job done. In truth, safety should never be sacrificed for productivity and there is never a legitimate reason to remove guarding during operation – if the guard is preventing you from doing something, then the machine is not designed to do it!

1. What safety problems have you observed on our jobs?

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2. What job related injuries have we had since our last meeting?

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3. Today’s Topic:

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