

Safe operation of a Guillotine



The most common guillotine injuries are crushed or amputated fingers.

Most of these accidents are not caused by the blade of the guillotine, but by the clamps that hold the sheet of metal being cut. Other injuries are from fingers jamming under the sheet of metal being cut, and strain injuries while handling large and awkward sheets of metal.

By law, guillotines must be guarded, operators must be trained, and safe work procedures must be developed to prevent injuries.

The following topics can be used as a guide for toolbox meetings to identify workplace hazards and to reduce the risks of metal guillotines.

It is an unsafe practice for two people to work at a guillotine unless both operators are provided with interlocked actuating devices (usually a foot control). However, in some guillotine operations, for example cutting large sheets, two operators may be required to manoeuvre sheets into position before cutting.

For such operations safe systems of work, such as safe work procedures should be developed to control any hazards.

The guillotine must have a safe work procedure on or near the guillotine to describe the safe way of using the guillotine, all operators must read this before using the guillotine to ensure that they now how to operate it safely, and ensure that the following points are adhered too:

- guards or safety devices are never removed or adjusted, except by an authorized person.
- the machine is always locked out and tagged if a guard or safety device is removed for inspection or maintenance work.
- the correct safety steps are known by all operators for starting and stopping the machine, especially in an emergency
- all safety devices are checked before the machine is operated.
- emergency stop control must be within easy reach of the operator.
- shrouded foot pedal designed to minimize the risk of unintended operation.
- power indicator that gives visible evidence that the power is switched on.
- offcuts should slide down a skid plate onto a trolley so that operators do not need to reach in behind the blade; and
- design of the machine should minimize awkward postures, so the operator's worktable and the machine bed are about waist high, and the controls are within easy reach.

Safety

It is important, that at all times, when working in an engineering environment, safety glasses, steel toe cap boots, overalls and ear defenders,

ARE WORN AT ALL TIMES