

GUARDING FUNCTIONALITY

“THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE SAFETY GUARDING”

The functionality of equipment guarding is often overlooked when guarding is purchased or fabricated and is the leading cause of guarding not being reinstalled and/or preventative maintenance not being carried out.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE GUARDS ARE FABRICATED AND INSTALLED:

- › Who needs access to the equipment behind the guards? Is it the operator of the equipment, maintenance workers, or both? Getting their input is very important.
- › Why do they need access? Is it possible to eliminate the need for access – e.g - install grease line extensions
- › What frequency do they need access? Is it hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or annually?
- › Is clean out a requirement? What methods of clean out are used?
- › How important is visibility behind the guards?
- › Are there determining factors that will dictate how close the guards must be from the pinch point? These could be industry standards or regulatory requirements

ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE DESIGNING AND INSTALLING GUARDS WILL:

- › Increase reliability - As easy to use guards will be reinstalled by workers
- › Decrease downtime - By making guards user friendly
- › Keep workers safe

The 3 point safety seat belt that you have in your vehicle was developed and designed with functionality in mind. It is easy to install and remove. If adjusted properly, it is comfortable for the user, and most importantly it saves lives in the event of an accident. Would seat belts be used today if they required two people and two different tools to install or remove? The answer is NO. For many people, wearing seat belts is second nature. It is something that you don't even think about when you get in a vehicle. Equipment guarding should be no different. A well designed guard **will** be used by workers, reinstalling guards **will** become second nature, and most importantly guarding **will** keep people safe.

