



Safeguarding of machinery - Based on CSA Z432-04

Machines are potentially hazardous due to moving parts, hydraulic and pneumatic systems, exhausts, chemicals and electrical circuits. It is estimated that workers in Canada suffer approximately 1800 critical injuries and more than 80 deaths per year associated with the operation and maintenance of machinery.

These statistics are particularly important in light of the amendment to the Criminal Code brought about by Bill C-45 which creates criminal liability for workplace accidents for directors, officers and corporate decision-makers as well as managers, supervisors and lead hands.

When enforcing the law, many regulatory bodies recognize the CSA standard Z432-04, Safeguarding of Machinery and recognize compliance as a reasonable standard of care. This important standard sets out the requirements for the design, manufacturing, installation, maintenance, operation and safeguarding of industrial equipment with the intent to enhance worker safety, and prevent accidents and injury.

Every identifiable hazard should be classified according to the criteria outlined in CSA Standard Z432-04 for the Safeguarding of Machinery. The classification of hazards is subject to the governing regulations of the region where the equipment is operating. In the event that there are additional applicable standards for the industrial equipment or process, they should be included in the evaluation.

If the scope of your position within your company makes you responsible for your employees, it is your obligation to know this important standard, including the legal requirements and to work to analyze the risk assessment element that is crucial to your effective operation.

Clute Packaging Systems Ltd., along with our engineering advisors can assist you in meeting this CSA standard. Contact us to find out the full extent of your responsibilities as an employer, or access our Resource Centre for your own copy of “Safeguarding of machinery – Based on CSA Z432-04.