Chapter 25: Machine and Portable Tools

Quick Start Summary

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1 Who needs to know about these requirements

The requirements of Machine and Portable Tools apply to workers, supervisors, machine and shop custodians, and building and area managers. They cover the procurement, safeguarding, use, and maintenance of machine and portable (both power and hand) tools.

2 Why

Machine and portable tools pose various hazards: striking or contacting part of the body with the tool (including rotating parts, exposed gears, cutting tools and blades, point(s) of operation), the work piece, or projectiles coming off them; exposure to noise, dust, and chemicals; and exposure to hazardous energies.

3 What do I need to know

The federal regulations require that machine and portable tools be provided to workers in safe condition, operated safely, and maintained in a safe condition. In addition, machine guarding and other safeguards must be provided and maintained in a manner sufficient to protect machine operators and other persons present in machine areas from hazards associated with the operation of machines.

- Workers must use the right tools for the job; be trained and authorized to use the tools; inspect tools before each use; and follow all requirements when using tools. With machine tools this includes demonstrating machine-specific competency, following shop- and machine-specific safety rules, and never working alone.
- Shop custodians must make sure all machine tool users are authorized and follow requirements in their shops; machine custodians must ensure machine tools are properly safeguarded, inspected, and maintained and must communicate requirements to workers.

4 When

The requirements of this chapter take effect 10 May 2013. Workers must demonstrate machine-specific competency for the machine tools they use within 60 days.

5 Where do I find more information

SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)
- Chapter 25, “Machine and Portable Tools”

Or contact the program manager.