Machine Guard Inspection Checklist

OSHA-Compliant Safety Documentation for Manufacturing Operations

This checklist provides a systematic approach for inspecting machine guards and safety devices in compliance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.212 (General Requirements for All Machines) and related standards. Complete inspections should be performed at regular intervals and after any maintenance, repair, or modification to equipment.

Equipment Information			
Equipment Name/ID:		**Location:**	
Equipment Type:		**Department:**	
Manufacturer:		**Model/Serial No:**	
Inspector Name:		**Date of Inspection:**	
Inspection Frequency:		**Last Inspection Date:**	

Section 1: Fixed Guards	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Guard is securely attached with no loose fasteners or mounting hardware				
No gaps, holes, or openings that allow access to point of operation				
Guard material is appropriate for the hazard (steel, polycarbonate, mesh, etc.)				
Guard is free of cracks, breaks, dents, or other damage				
Guard does not interfere with normal machine operation				
All required fasteners are in place and properly torqued				
Visibility through guard allows adequate operator observation (if applicable)				
Guard edges are smooth with no sharp points or burrs				

Section 2: Interlocked Guards	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Interlock switch functions properly (machine stops when guard opens)				
Guard cannot be easily bypassed or defeated				
Interlock wiring is intact and properly routed				
Guard returns to closed/locked position before machine can restart				
Interlock response time is appropriate for machine stopping distance				
Warning labels for interlock system are visible and legible				
Bypass key (if equipped) is controlled and documented				
Interlock switch housing is secure and undamaged				

Section 3: Adjustable Guards	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Guard adjusts smoothly through full range of motion				
Locking mechanisms hold guard securely in adjusted position				
Minimum opening is maintained for stock feeding requirements				
Guard opening corresponds to material size being processed				
Adjustment handles/knobs are in good working condition				
Setup procedures include proper guard adjustment documentation				

Section 4: Self-Adjusting Guards	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Guard moves freely in response to stock passage				
Spring tension or counterbalance is adequate				
Guard returns to protective position after stock passes				
No binding or sticking in guard movement				
Guard provides maximum protection at rest position				
Guide rollers/surfaces are clean and functional				

Section 5: Safety Devices	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Presence-sensing devices (light curtains) properly aligned and functioning				
Safety mats responsive across entire surface area				
Two-hand controls require simultaneous activation				
Two-hand control buttons are properly spaced (OSHA requirements)				
Pull-back devices adjusted to operator hand/arm size				
Restraint devices properly adjusted and maintained				
Emergency stop buttons accessible and clearly marked				
Emergency stops function properly when tested				
Safety devices cannot be easily bypassed				
All safety device indicators/lights functioning				

Section 6: Point of Operation Hazards	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
In-running nip points are adequately guarded				
Rotating parts (pulleys, gears, shafts) are enclosed or guarded				
Flying chips, sparks, or splash hazards are contained				
Cutting and shearing points are inaccessible during operation				
Reciprocating parts have adequate clearance or guarding				
Transverse motion hazards are addressed				
Kickback prevention devices functional (if applicable)				
Feed mechanisms adequately guarded				

Section 7: Power Transmission Guarding	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Belts and pulleys fully enclosed or guarded				
Chain and sprocket drives guarded				
Rotating shafts have adequate guarding				
Coupling guards in place and secure				
Flywheel guard intact and secure				
All guards extend to proper height (minimum 7 feet or to ceiling)				

Section 8: Documentation & Training	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Operating procedures posted or readily available				
Guard removal procedures documented for maintenance				
Lockout/Tagout procedures in place for this equipment				
Operators trained on proper guard use and requirements				

Training records current and accessible				
Hazard warning signs and labels in good condition				
Machine-specific safety rules posted				
Near-miss and incident reporting procedures communicated				

Section 9: General Housekeeping	OK	N/A	Deficient	Notes/Action Required
Area around machine clear of debris and slip hazards				
Adequate lighting for safe operation and inspection				
Floor markings visible and in good condition				
Storage of tools and materials does not create hazards				
Coolant/lubricant containment adequate				
Guards and safety devices kept clean and visible				

Deficiency Summary

Item #	Deficiency Description	Priority	Target Date	Completed

Priority Levels: **1 = Critical** (Immediate correction required, remove from service) | **2 = Serious** (Correct within 24-48 hours) | **3 = Minor** (Correct within 30 days)

Inspection Sign-Off			
Inspector Signature:		**Date:**	
Supervisor Review:		**Date:**	
Corrective Actions Completed By:		**Date:**	

Regulatory References

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.212 - General Requirements for All Machines
OSHA 29 CFR 1910.217 - Mechanical Power Presses
OSHA 29 CFR 1910.219 - Mechanical Power-Transmission Apparatus
ANSI B11 Series - Machine Tool Safety Standards
ANSI/NFPA 79 - Electrical Standard for Industrial Machinery

This checklist is provided as a general guide for machine guard inspections and may not address all hazards specific to your equipment or operations. Users should consult applicable OSHA standards, manufacturer recommendations, and conduct comprehensive hazard assessments. First Underwriters Insurance Brokers recommends regular inspections based on equipment type, usage frequency, and workplace conditions. Retain completed checklists as part of your safety documentation program.