



Machine Guarding 2.0: Creating Safe Separation, Doesn't Have To Slow Your Operation

Features/Focus:

-Meets OSHA's machine guarding requirements in the industrial workplace

-Lift out panel design allows for quick access by maintenance personnel

- Reversible panels and doors create flexible solution for continually changing needs

- Steel mesh guards not only provide physical barriers to direct contact with equipment but can also set safe distances of separation between personnel and projectile materials

- Materials are stocked for quick shipment

The opportunity:

In response to several serious accidents, a Tier 1 supplier to the automotive industry reviewed and revised its requirements to control potential hazards where physical barriers were not previously used in its operations.

The solution:

Flexibly-designed wire mesh machine guarding not only meets OSHA requirements, but allows for quick access to maximize operational efficiency and reduce costs.



Project: Machine Guarding (manufactured by SpaceGuard Products)

Moving machine parts have the potential to cause severe workplace injuries, such as crushed fingers or hands, amputations, burns, blindness, or can even prove to be fatal. The proper safeguarding is essential for protecting workers from these otherwise preventable injuries. When the operation of a machine or accidental contact can injure the operator or others in the vicinity, the hazards must be eliminated or controlled.

Enter a Tier 1 Supplier of safety glass products to the automotive industry who, unfortunately, experienced several serious and costly injuries that might have otherwise been avoided. This Manufacturer had always followed ISO and OSHA standards around its robotic and automated work cells; however, light curtains and cable systems had often been used around its conveyor line processes in lieu of hard barriers in order to periodically remove damaged or errant product while minimizing downtime. Management completed a risk assessment, concluding the guarding methods did not safely control the distances of nearby personnel from all moving parts of the machinery. They needed a solution that would provide safe separation without risking uptime that is so vital in keeping up with the daily requirements of its OEM customers, and they needed it quickly. SpaceGuard Products Machine Guarding proved to be the perfect answer for safety and operational efficiency with its flexible design.

The processes in question are often several hundred feet long with maintenance and troubleshooting operators needing to gain access at just about any point in the system. Increasing the number of gates in a barrier guarding system adds cost and makes it difficult to monitor lockout access points. Instead, with its "lift out" design, each SpaceGuard panel is removable by one person with a simple tool and minimal effort. This not only allows operators to gain access and remove large parts, but it provides open lanes for access by forklifts and cranes required for maintenance or equipment changeovers. When installing this system the customer chose to order "stock size" components and doors to reduce lead times and overall

project costs. With a modular design and reversible doors, the customer is also able to assess and change the layouts as required without purchasing additional materials.

In the end, this Manufacturer learned that you do not have to forego machine uptime for the sake of safety. You just need the right product.

The logo for SpaceGuard Products, featuring the word "SPACEGUARD" in a bold, red, sans-serif font above the word "PRODUCTS" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a white rounded rectangle with a thin black border.

SPACEGUARD
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