

Dietary - Using Mixer Guards

Saskatchewan's *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* (Regulation 10-4) set out employers' responsibilities regarding safeguards. This includes the requirement that effective safeguards shall be provided where a worker may contact a dangerous moving part of a machine, and that the safeguard must remain in place at all times.

A mixer guard is a safeguard. It prevents unintentional worker contact with rotating shafts and attachments. Always consult the manufacturer's literature and operating instructions.

Injuries from contact with rotating parts range from cuts and bruises to fractures, amputations and even death

Hazards

Rotating attachments present a significant hazard during mixer operation. These attachments, such as a whisk, dough hook and paddle or flat beater can cut, entangle, stab or abrade fingers, hands and arms.

Other hazardous activities commonly performed include:

- (a) reaching into the bowl to remove product or scrape the sides,
- (b) cleaning the mixer, and
- (c) adding extra product or ingredients during the mixing process.

A worker's hand, fingers, or clothing, can come into direct contact with rotating attachments during these activities. **Aprons, gloves and ties have become entangled around rotating parts of machinery and caused serious injury - even death - by dragging the operator into the mixer.**

Spatulas, spoons and other hand held utensils can also make contact with rotating parts. This could result in the utensil hurling through the air, potentially causing injury - or even drawing your hand into the machine.

Just because a machine is used without the safeguard,
and no injuries have happened **yet**,
does not mean that the machine is completely safe.

Identifying and Controlling Hazards

A hazard assessment identifies that a mixer's rotating shaft and attachment are a hazard to workers. Eliminating or controlling the hazard is the next step.

Use the guard...leave it in place and your fingers, hands and clothing will stay in place too!

source: Government of Alberta, Guarding of Commercial Dough and Food Preparation Mixers, March 2005

Safety Talk Discussion

Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!