
Machine Safety Assessment service

Reduce the risk of injury to your plant's workers



The food and beverage industry in the U.S. has one of the highest incidents of job-related injuries, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. In an industry where heavy machinery, dust and noise are the norm, the dangers are everywhere.

The industry has a legal and moral obligation to safeguard its workers, and leading manufacturers are taking this obligation seriously. Machine guarding and safety was identified as a continuous improvement priority by 62% of respondents in Food Processing's 2017 Manufacturing Outlook Survey.

We understand your need to keep employees safe in challenging conditions. To help you meet this need, we offer a Machine Safety Assessment service to identify and help you reduce machine safety risks.

If you want to reduce the risk of injury to workers and increase machine uptime, talk to us.

1 Why do you need this service?

Machine safety systems have become increasingly complex, with multiple components and processes to manage risk. Many plants purchase safety components individually or a few at a time, with little or no thought to compatibility or system integration.

This can result in a hodge-podge of safety devices, procedures and processes in a plant. Each may add an incremental element of safety and the perception of a cohesive safety system. But together, these add-ons may create unnecessary tasks, impede operations and reduce productivity – while still not meeting applicable safety standards.

Our food and beverage experts have the specialized knowledge to assess your machines during operations and identify opportunities to improve your safeguarding efforts. By acting on the findings of the Machine Safety Assessment, you can:

- Reduce risk for injury or harm
- Reduce the chances of human error in your production
- Improve productivity through increased machine uptime
- Comply with ANSI machine safety standards
- Reduce the potential for fines from regulatory agencies
- Reduce the potential for civil lawsuits
- Potentially reduce insurance premiums

Of course, you want to reduce the chances of your personnel being harmed while at work because you care about their wellbeing. But the financial impact of potential regulatory fines for safety violations also justifies an investment in your machine safety. As one example, a company had a fatality at one of their plants. OSHA cited many violations once it completed its investigation of the incident. This company was fined \$2.4M and was given a mandate to upgrade 180 pieces of equipment over a two-year period. The average upgrade cost per piece of equipment was \$125,000, and the time to upgrade each piece was four to seven days. The overall estimated downtime due to these upgrades was 720 days at a minimum.

2 What happens during an assessment?

We will review your areas of concern regarding machine safety and schedule a time to visit your plant. During the assessment, our experts will check conditions in and around the machines being evaluated, including verifying stopping performance. Our team uses applicable standards, such as ANSI, ISO and NFPA, in their assessment. We will also interview relevant plant personnel to discuss current safety processes and performance.

The time required to complete the onsite assessment will vary depending on the number of machines to be evaluated, as well as the size of the machines.

You will be presented a written report with the findings of the assessment in approximately two to four weeks. We will also schedule a meeting to review recommendations and discuss next steps.

3 What happens next?

Based on your needs and the scope of work to be completed, our team can help you as much or as little as you like in order to implement the proposed ABB solution.

The written report includes the following components:

- Identification of machine safety inefficiencies – includes photos with areas of concern highlighted
- Plan to correct the safety inefficiencies
- Recommend solutions to safeguard the system
- Bill of materials
- Fencing diagrams (if necessary)
- Basic electrical block diagrams

Your report will reference the applicable standards and requirements used in the machine safety assessment, as well as our team's findings and recommendations. We will then work with you to prioritize next steps and develop an implementation plan.

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If you want to reduce your risk of OSHA recordable incidents, talk to us about your own Machine Safety Assessment.