



Lockout/Tagout: Controlling Hazardous Energy

3/17/21

“Lockout/tagout” refers to safety practices and procedures designed to prevent injuries and deaths caused by the unexpected activation of machinery and equipment, or the release of other hazardous energy while workers perform maintenance, repairs, cleaning, adjusting, or servicing activities. **Lockout** involves using a security device or lock to prevent the unintentional startup of equipment. **Tagout** is the practice of using tags to make workers aware that equipment should not be energized until the lock and tag are removed.

Following is a list of common energy sources and the potential hazards they create for you:

- **Electricity:** electrical shock and burns.
- **Hydraulic pressure:** fluid spray and machine movement.
- **Thermal energy:** burns and frostbite.
- **Gravity:** crushing injuries and engulfment.
- **Fluids:** drowning and suffocation.
- **Chemical energy:** chemical exposure, fire, and burns.
- **Mechanical energy:** amputation and crushing injuries.
- **Pneumatic energy:** pressure release and machine movement.

Before working on, repairing, adjusting, or replacing machinery or equipment, notify affected employees that will

be out of service. Shut down the machinery or equipment following the appropriate procedures. Remember that different equipment may have different procedures. Place switches in the “off” position. Isolate all energy control devices: disconnect electricity; block moving parts; release stored energy; drain and bleed lines; block, vent, and drain fluid lines; disconnect pneumatic lines; and lower suspended parts to their rest positions.

Place a lock on all energy sources and isolation devices. Verify isolation. Check voltage on circuits. Check pressure on gauges and fluid lines. Attempt to start the equipment or activate the system in the normal manner and from all control points. Then, return all control devices to the “off” or neutral position. Remember that if more than one employee is assigned to a task requiring lockout/tagout, each of them must place his or her own lock and tag on each energy-isolating device.

Once the task is finished, it is time to reverse your steps. Only the person who performed the lockout/tagout procedures is allowed to remove the lock and tag. Before a lock or tag is removed and the energy is restored, the work area should be inspected. Make sure everyone is accounted for, all guards are replaced, and all tools and materials are out of the way.

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SAFETY REMINDER

**Identify • Isolate • Release • Lockout •
 Verify • Inspect • Clear**

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS* PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED SDS # _____ SUBJECT: _____

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME: _____
 MEETING DATE: _____
 SUPERVISOR: _____
 ATTENDEES: _____

These Instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.