

BREAD SLICER

The most common injury in a retail environment is a cut. These are often the result of using knives during a routine task. On occasion, cuts are from the multiple knives on the bread slicer. The following are tips on what to examine on this machine and review what the Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHS Act) states.

When new equipment enters the workplace, it needs to go through a *Pre-start Health & Safety Review*. This piece of legislation can be found in *Industrial Regulations section 7*. The equipment can not be operated until changes or additions have been made to correct all hazards that may be present and the equipment is in compliance with the *section 7 Table* and the *Act*.

When assessing equipment, **first identify the hazard**. In this case, it is the knives. *s. 24: Where a machine or prime mover or transmission equipment has an exposed moving part that may endanger the safety of any worker, the machine or prime mover or transmission equipment shall be equipped with and guarded by a guard or other device that prevents access to the moving part.*

To be in compliance with this regulation, **a guard needs to be installed to prevent access to the knives**. When designing a guard, *CSA Safeguarding of Machinery Z432-94* can be used. This standard gives the dimensions of the guard, depending on the opening size and distance to the hazard. Not all committees have access to this standard. Another approach is to measure the length of an arm and make the guard longer to ensure a worker cannot reach the hazard. An investigation underneath the equipment is also required for access points, as well as the sides and front of the machine. Any place there is access to a hazard must be protected. Consider what material the guard should be made of. Will the operator need to see through the guard? If so, use strong, see-through material. The guard must be secured in such a way that a tool is required to remove it.



The next requirement is that of an **Emergency Stop**. *s. 27: An emergency stop control on a power-driven machine shall,*
(a) *be conspicuously identified; and*
(b) *be located within easy reach of the operator.*

Another hazard may be present when the equipment is plugged in. *s. 44. (1) Cord-connected electrical equipment and tools shall have a casing that is adequately grounded.*
The plug needs to have a ground (three prongs) and not create a trip hazard. *s. 11. A floor or other surface used by any worker shall, (a) be kept free of, (i) obstructions, (ii) hazards, and (iii) accumulations of refuse, snow or ice; and (b) not have any finish or protective material used on it that is likely to make the surface slippery.* Not all workplaces have ample space. It is helpful if plugs can hang from the ceiling so that the equipment can be plugged in over itself, rather than have the cord on the floor.



Well designed equipment will have **locking wheels that can secure the equipment from movement**. There also needs to be consideration as to the cleaning of the equipment.

s. 42. (1) *The power supply to electrical installations, equipment or conductors shall be disconnected, locked out of service and tagged before any work is done, and while it is being done, on or near live exposed parts of the installations, equipment or conductors.*

s. 75. *A part of a machine, transmission machinery, device or thing shall be cleaned, oiled, adjusted, repaired or have maintenance work performed on it only when,*

(a) *motion that may endanger a worker has stopped; and*

(b) *any part that has been stopped and that may subsequently move and endanger a worker has been blocked to prevent its movement.*

There is a **dress code when working near equipment**:

s. 83. (1) *Long hair shall be suitably confined to prevent entanglement with any rotating shaft, spindle, gear, belt or other source of entanglement.*

(2) *Jewellery or clothing that is loose or dangling or rings shall not be worn near any rotating shaft, spindle, gear, belt or other source of entanglement.*

The **hazard of ergonomics** is also a consideration when viewing equipment. The investigation should include the job tasks of the workers. They may include the operators, cleaning crew or maintenance crew. Each worker performs different tasks on the equipment and each task needs to be reviewed.

The last requirement for equipment is **training the workers**. A worker needs to be competent to operate equipment. That means effective training to operate the equipment as found in *OHSA section 25*;

s. (1) *An employer shall ensure that,*

(a) *the equipment, materials and protective devices as prescribed are provided;*

s. (2) *Without limiting the strict duty imposed by subsection (1), an employer shall,*

(a) *provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker to protect the health or safety of the worker;*

(d) *acquaint a worker or a person in authority over a worker with any hazard in the work and in the handling, storage, use, disposal and transport of any article, device, equipment or a biological, chemical or physical agent;*

Not all hazards present in your workplace may be listed here. Please check the *Occupational Health & Safety Act* and applicable regulations for your workplace equipment.

OHSA R.S.O. 1990, C.O.I

OHSA Sections that apply:

- Section 25(1)(a)
- Section 25(2)(a)(d)

R.R.O. 1990. Reg 851

Industrial Reg. that apply:

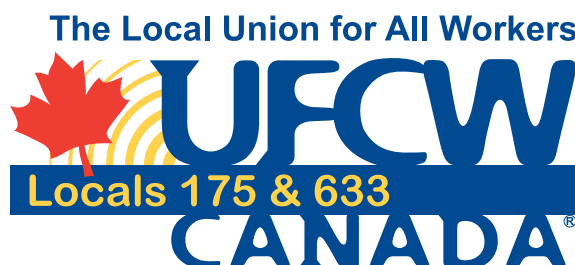
- Section 7
- Section 11
- Section 24
- Section 27
- Section 42(1)
- Section 44(1)
- Section 75

Canadian Standard Association (CSA)
Safeguarding of Machinery Z432-94

- Dimensions of guards
- E-Stop information

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