



No Safety?

OW

**No
Work!**

CRASH! BOOM! SMASH!

**WE NO LONGER WANT TO HEAR THESE SINISTER COMIC BOOK CAPTIONS
IN REAL LIFE. SO, LET'S WRITE A DIFFERENT STORY, ABOUT PREVENTING
ACCIDENTS AT WORK IN THE METALWORKING SECTOR.**

SMALL ACTIONS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Health and safety at work is not just a legal obligation; it should be a **daily habit**.

Simple actions can make a big difference, such as keeping the workplace tidy, promptly reporting potential hazards and avoiding distractions.

These small gestures can prevent big problems. Before starting work, take a few minutes to carry out a few essential checks to:

- Make sure the work area is safe.
- Check the condition and operation of equipment and machinery.
- Establish that personal protective equipment is available and put it on properly.

All employees, regardless of their role, have **shared responsibilities** to keep the workplace safe by taking care of themselves to protect others.



BE AWARE OF AND RECOGNISE RISKS

The most common hazards in the metalworking industry are created by **moving machine parts, falling from a height**, and the **unexpected or accidental starting of a vehicle, machine tool or equipment**.

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1

Recognise any small warning signs. Accidents are frequently the result of faulty machinery, unstable loads or the failure to activate safety systems.

2

Report near misses, to reduce the possibility of the accident recurring with a less fortunate outcome.

3

Act immediately to remedy any dangerous situation.

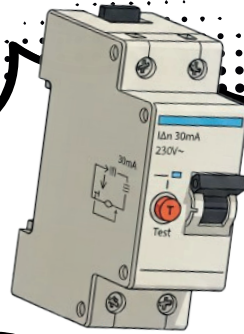
PROTECTION UNITES

Collective protective equipment (CPE) is designed to make the work place a safe place and employers are required by law to provide special training to their employees to learn how to properly and safely use it.

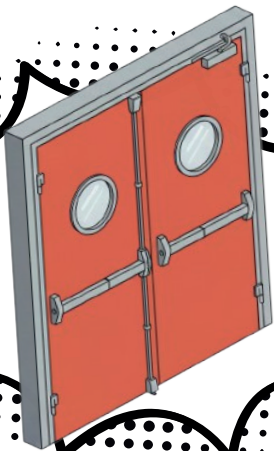
Fixed or movable guards and emergency stop devices protect against accidental contact with moving parts of machinery or ejected material.

Load restraint systems, canopies and restricted areas, which are useful for identifying safe routes and workstations, should not be overlooked.

Finally, a safe workplace must have appropriate lighting, signage (prohibitions, hazards, routes) and audible/visual alarms.



Employers are responsible for implementing health and safety measures, safety supervisors are responsible for monitoring compliance with the measures, and employees for **reporting** any malfunctions, shortcomings or tampering with safety systems to the foreman and the Workers' Safety Representative (RLS).



SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU

Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and footwear, helmets, goggles and visors, are not fashion accessories.

Using them correctly will protect you against impacts, falls, cuts and electrical hazards.

Wearing PPE is not enough, you have to wear it properly. Loose-fitting clothing, an unfastened helmet or unsuitable gloves can in fact pose a risk instead of preventing one.

Help yourself stay safe by checking PPE for **signs of wear** and **expiry dates** and by following the instructions provided during mandatory **in-company health and safety training**.



MOVING HAZARDS

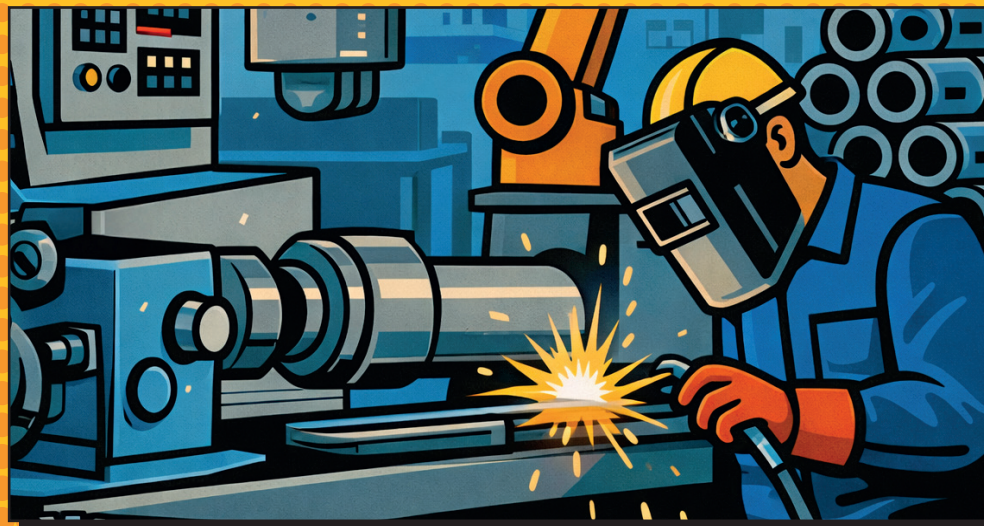
Accidental contact with **moving machine parts** (belts, pulleys, pistons, rotating shafts and conveyor belts) can cause serious or even fatal accidents at work.

The parts of the body most frequently involved are the hands, but hair and clothing can also become entangled, often with very serious consequences, such as crushing, dragging, cuts and amputations.

To prevent this always make sure that machines and equipment are fitted with adequate **guards and protective barriers**.

Mechanical locking devices and automatic shutdown systems can limit the damage, in the event of accidental contact.

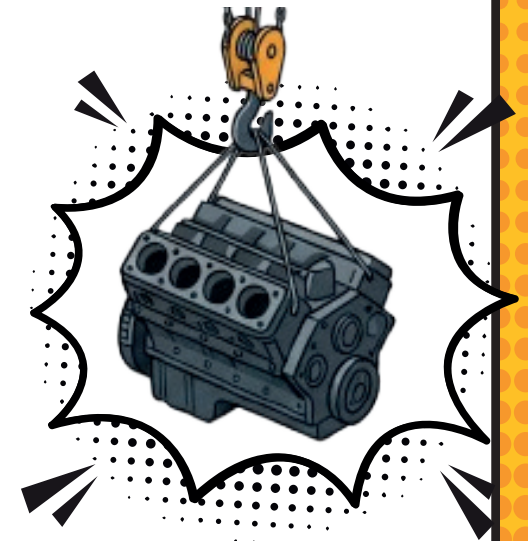
However, you must always follow a golden rule: never touch any moving parts until the machine comes to a complete stop.



UNEXPECTED HAZARDS

Accidents can occur due to the **unexpected or unintended start-up** and movement of wheeled vehicles or stationary lifting equipment, for example, as a result of the failure to use an emergency braking mechanism, such as a parking brake, poor visibility and communication errors.

Protective equipment and safety devices are essential, of course, but you can also ensure your own and other people's safety by operating machinery and vehicles very carefully and **according to the training received**.



ABOUT SAFETY

Doing the same job day in, day out, over long periods of time, can make you complacent and repetitive work can eventually make you lower your level of attention. This complacent attitude is the cause of many accidents because you come to underestimate the real risks and neglect using safety procedures and personal protective equipment.

Keep in mind that **self-confidence** must never replace caution and **safety at work**.



Find out more about:
rpu.gl/workplace-safety