

2.12 Inspection and Maintenance of Machine Guarding

Machinery and the guarding systems installed on them require regular inspection and maintenance to ensure continued safe operation. Regular inspections fulfill two key objectives in maintaining machine safety. First, inspections performed at regular intervals can identify excessive wear and out of adjustment components before they have a chance to fail during use. Second, inspections can identify issues with functionality and guarding compliance by operators. By proactively addressing inspection findings, machines will be maintained in proper working order and issues with guarding can be resolved.

PI's, Technicians, and Staff * are responsible for ensuring that all components of the machinery within their department are always maintained in proper working order. Laboratories and machine shops must develop a machinery inspection program. Inspections must be performed on a regular basis at a frequency that is determined by the level of machine use. At a minimum, PI's, Technicians, or Staff are to perform an inspection of each machine in a laboratory or machine shop once per month. A basic machine safety inspection checklist is found in **Appendix F**. If a problem with a machine is identified during an inspection or reported by an operator, that machine must be immediately removed from service until repairs can be made.

* Departments may hire student workers provided they have the training and experience required to competently perform these tasks.