Appendix D - Hierarchy of Controls

The Hierarchy of Controls is the primary means of reducing risk when working with machine hazards. Risk reduction measures are applied following the order of hierarchy as depicted in the following table. Risks can be mitigated by reducing the severity of harm presented by the hazard, improving the possibility of avoiding harm, and/or reducing the need for access to the hazard zone. Identified hazards should ideally be addressed using the most preferred measures on the table.

	Risk Reduction Measures	Examples	Influence on Risk Factors	Classification
Most Preferred Least Preferred	Elimination or Substitution	Eliminate pinch points (increase clearance) Intrinsically safe (energy containment) Automated material handling (robots, conveyors, etc.) Redesign the process to eliminate or reduce human interaction Reduced energy Substitute less hazardous chemicals	Impact on overall risk (elimination) by affecting severity and probability of harm May affect severity of harm, frequency of exposure to the hazard under consideration, and/or the possibility of avoiding or limiting harm depending on which method of substitution is applied.	Design Out
	Guards, Safeguarding Devices, and Complementary Measures	Barriers Interlocks Presence sensing devices (light curtains, safety mats, area scanners, etc.) Two hand control and two-hand trip devices	Greatest impact on the probability of harm (Occurrence of hazardous events under certain circumstance) Minimal if any impact on severity of harm	Engineering Controls
	Awareness Devices	 Lights, beacons, and strobes Computer warnings Signs and labels Beepers, horns, and sirens 	Potential impact on the probability of harm (avoidance) No impact on severity of harm	
	Training and Procedures	Safe work procedures Safety equipment inspections Training Lockout / Tagout / Verify	Potential impact on the probability of harm (avoidance and/or exposure) No impact on severity of harm	Administrative Controls
	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Safety glasses and face shields Ear plugs Gloves Protective footwear Respirators	Potential impact on the probability of harm (avoidance) No impact on severity of harm	

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