



Cycletime Tips - General

Volume 34: Machinery Safety Standard

By Mark Shade

You may have heard or read something about a machinery safety standard that will be effective soon. ANSI/SPI B151.1-1997 is a revision of American National Standard for Plastics machinery – Horizontal molding machines – Safety requirements for the manufacture, care and use, ANSI/SPI B151.1 – 1990.

The date for meeting this standard is July 22, 2000. This is an industry standard, not an OSHA standard. OSHA inspectors are not expected to seek out violators but if someone is injured and compliance to this standard would have prevented the injury then...

The revision was issued in 1997 and the industry was given three years to convert existing machines. The time to modify existing machines is NOW. Machinery manufacturers may have already sent information to you and probably have kits available for installation onto relatively new equipment. Older horizontal molding machines will be more problematic. Press remanufacturers can help with kits and custom installations.

The changes include:

- Stricter control of access into the mold clamp area for small machines, those where a person standing on the floor could reach over the top of the guarding.
- Reduced access into the mold area through the parts discharge openings. Fixed chutes and conveyors may function as guarding in some instances.
- Screw rotation is permitted when the operator's gate is open only when the nozzle shut-off device is in the closed position.
- All movable guards must be fitted with interlocks.
- Additional emergency stop/emergency reverse buttons, gate blocks, double acknowledgement systems and other safety devices are specifically required for larger machines.
- Pressure sensing devices are required on working platforms in the mold area of large machines.
- Please obtain the complete standard for other changes.

For machines manufactured before July 22, 1998, focus on sections 6 (existing HIMMs) and 8 (Safety Signs) of the standard.

You can order a copy of the standard from American National Standards Institute, New York, NY. The SPI, Washington, DC can offer information and assistance. Molders

should also contact machinery manufacturers, remanufacturers, distributors and agents for information.

Costs to bring horizontal injection molding machines into compliance can be significant. Costs of ignoring this standard could be much, much more. **The purpose of this standard is to minimize hazards to personnel working on, or adjacent to, a horizontal injection molding machine.**

No one likes to hear about additional work or regulations. Most of us already have enough to do but if ANSI B151.1-1997 or this reminder prevents the grief and hardship of any injury, then all of the efforts to implement this standard are well worthwhile.

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