



Machine Safety Strategy Guide

The following is a machine safety strategy guide used to outline a structured approach for identifying risks, prioritizing improvements, and implementing effective machine safety solutions.

www.powersafeautomation.com

Engineering Your Safety

From Reactive Fixes to a Structured Risk Reduction Plan

Purpose is to move from reactive safety fixes to a proactive, structured approach to machine safety.

1. Identify exposure:

- ☐ Identify pinch points, rotating parts, cutting hazards
- ☐ Review operator interaction during operation, setup, and maintenance

2. Assess & Prioritize:

- ☐ Evaluate severity, exposure frequency, avoidance, and number of people exposed
- ☐ Rank risks using a priority-based approach

3. Apply Layered Safety:

- ☐ Physical guarding (barriers, enclosures)
- ☐ Access control (interlocks)
- ☐ Presence sensing (light curtains, scanners, radar)
- ☐ Functional safety controls (relays, monitored circuits)
- ☐ Administrative controls (LOTO, procedures)

4. Validate Performance:

- ☐ Verify stopping time and safety distance
- ☐ Confirm interlock and safety device functionality
- ☐ Ensure proper reset logic

5. Plan & Execute:

- ☐ Address high-risk items immediately
- ☐ Build a 6 to 12 month safety improvement roadmap
- ☐ Align projects with downtime and budget cycles

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- Treating safety as one-time project
- Ignoring operator workarounds
- Assuming older machines are compliant
- Relying on a single safety method

What Good Looks Like:

- Hazards not accessible during operation
- Systems designed, not pieced together
- Operators do not bypass safeguards
- Risk reduction is planned and prioritized

When to Seek Professional Assessment:

- Uncertainty in risk levels
- Recent near-misses or audit concerns
- Low confidence in existing guarding
- Need for budget justification

This matrix is a general guideline and is not intended to serve as a formal, certified, or compliant risk assessment. Use of this document does not ensure compliance with ANSI B11.19, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, or any other safety standards. PowerSafe Automation assumes no liability for the use or misuse of this tool. A detailed risk assessment performed by a qualified professional is required to properly evaluate machine safety risks.

If you are interested in a Guarding Assessment done by PowerSafe Automation, please contact us at 260.993.2828.

Review performed by (Print)

____ / ____ / 20____
Date of review

Review performed by (Signature)