

# FACT Sheet Amputations

Why should I worry about amputations?

Your industry has been identified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as having both high fatality numbers and prior citations involving equipment capable of causing amputations.

Amputations are among the most severe and crippling workplace injuries that result in permanent disability. Employee exposure to unguarded or inadequately guarded machines is prevalent in many workplaces. Consequently, workers who operate and maintain machinery suffer approximately 18,000 amputations, lacerations, crushing injuries, abrasions, and over 800 deaths per year.



What Industries commonly have amputations?

- Metal Fabrication shops
- Meat or Poultry processing
- Machining or welding shops
- Commercial printing operations
- Wood working facilities
- Saw and planing mills
- Injection molding operations

What kinds of machinery are commonly involved in amputations?

Conveyors  
Meat cutting band saws  
Milling machines  
Trash compactors

Printing presses  
Meat grinders  
Food Slicers  
Forklifts

Mechanical power presses  
Drill presses  
Shears, grinders, slitters

Why do amputations occur?

Amputations can occur when workers are engaged in normal production operations as well as during servicing or maintenance operations, and are usually the result of *unguarded machinery, failure to identify hazards in the workplace and take adequate precautions, lack of adequate training, lack of or a deficient Lockout/Tagout program, and human error.*

What do I need to do and where can I get help?

**At minimum**, you need to comply with the Hawai'i Occupational Safety and Health (HIOSH) [standards](#), regarding machine guarding (12-80.1), Lockout Tagout (General Environmental Controls, page 37), Hand and Power Tools (12-79.1) and related [standards](#)

- ✓ Hazard Analysis – identifying hazards associated with the use and care of machines in your workplace
- ✓ Safeguarding – eliminating or controlling potential amputation or other injury hazards

## Fact Sheet on Amputations

- ✓ Preventive Maintenance on safeguards
- ✓ Training employees on the safe and appropriate use of machinery and its safeguards
- ✓ Providing personal protective equipment, where other types of safeguarding are ineffective or infeasible.

The attached [checklist](#) derived from the State of Washington - [WISHA](#), will help to prevent amputations in your workplace.

**You may** request a Free, confidential consultation – 808-586-9135 ([HIOSH Consultation & Training](#))

**Download** OSHA publication on [Amputations](#)

**Click On** OSHA E-Tools on [Machine Guarding](#):

**Click On** OSHA E-Tools on [Lockout-Tagout](#)

**See** OSHA's [Control of Hazardous Energy \(Lockout/Tagout\)](#) Safety and Health Topics Page

**Borrow** [Videos/DVDs](#) on “machine guarding” or “lockout tagout” from the HIOSH Video Library – FREE!