

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Cafe and restaurant industry - Machinery and equipment safety

Caterers, chefs and kitchen staff use many types of equipments such as slicers, mincers, knives or mixers that can cause cuts.

Possible solutions

Guard sharp edges and moving parts

- Guards or restrictor plates should be fitted to equipment where appropriate.
- Make sure that all machines have guards attached and that workers always use these when operating the equipment.
- Redesign machines so they cannot be operated without guards in place.
- Ensure “off” buttons are readily accessible.
- Train workers in the safe use of machinery, including what equipment is to be used for specific tasks and the functions of controls and guards.
- Ensure interlock guards are fitted to the front edge of all compactor units.

Use equipment safely

- Provide appropriate safety instructions and signs for equipment.
- Develop safe systems of work and train workers about them (eg, a no jewellery policy).
- Make sure workers know what to do if someone gets caught in a machine.

- Under-counter compactors should have a safety switch that prevents operation until a bin or trolley is in place.
- Make sure pressure vessels, such as coffee machines, are fitted with a low level cut-off device.
- Make sure equipment is fitted with safety valves, water level and pressure gauges where required.

Maintain your equipment

- Ensure that equipment is securely fixed to the bench.
- Have a system for reporting and fixing equipment that is not working properly.
- Regularly inspect and have your equipment serviced to make sure it has not been damaged (this may also improve productivity by reducing downtime of equipment).
- Provide accessible first aid equipment and trained first aid officers.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions for cleaning equipment.

For more information on general obligations and workplace health and safety issues call 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

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