

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS

If you've identified and assessed a hazard as significant, it must be controlled using the hierarchy of controls.

A significant hazard should be eliminated, if it can't then isolated, and if that isn't practicable, controls should be put in place to minimise the hazard.

If it is not a significant hazard the employer must still take all practicable steps to ensure the equipment is safe for employees to use.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS	GROUP CONTROLS	INDIVIDUAL CONTROLS
ELIMINATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Design or modify machine to eliminate the hazard > Eliminate by substitution > Eliminate human interaction (eg automate handling) > Eliminate pinch points > Increase clearances or remove forces 	
ISOLATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Fixed guard > Interlock guard > Interlock distance bars > Failsafe interlocking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Safe by position
MINIMISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Presence sensing devices > Light curtains > Computer warnings > Light beacons and strobe lights > Lock-out systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Two-hand controls > Emergency stop
MINIMISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Safe system of work > Signage > Training > Supervision > Safe operating procedures and instructions > Administrative controls (eg safety inspections) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Personal protective equipment



For more information on designing machinery to eliminate hazards see Section 5 of the Safe Use of Machinery BPG.