Why is control of hazardous energy important?

- Despite efforts by employers, unions, trade associations and the government during the past 50 years, the annual toll of injury and death related to hazardous energy release incidents remains unacceptable.
- There is no disagreement that workers should be protected from the unexpected startup or release of hazardous energy. There continues to be disagreements over how, when and which requirements apply.

The revised Z244.1 focuses on controlling hazardous energy using methods based in current technology and industry best practices to protect workers from harm due to the unexpected release of hazardous energy.

- Alternative methods and risk assessment have received additional attention to emphasize their importance in the energy control process.

Z244.1-2016

- The Z244.1 – 2016 standard establishes requirements for the control of hazardous energy associated with machines, equipment or processes in which the unexpected energization or start-up of the machines or equipment, release of stored energy or the actions of persons could cause harm to personnel.
- It specifies the use of lockout (primary method), tagout or alternative methods to control hazardous energy

This standard provides guidance regarding:

- responsibilities of the principal parties involved in hazardous energy control
- design issues that influence the effective application of control methodology
- hazardous energy control program elements necessary for employee protection
- communication and training requirements for involved personnel
- hazardous energy program review to ensure its effectiveness
- hazardous energy control methods
- alternative methods development for tasks where traditional lockout or tagout prohibits the completion of those tasks and
- special applications where typical methods of hazardous energy control are inappropriate or not practicable

Alternative Methods of Control

Lockout or tagout should be used unless the user can demonstrate that an alternative method will provide effective protection.

Alternative methods should only be used after hazards have been assessed and documented. Before they are used the following shall be completed:

• a practicability study/justification analysis
• a risk assessment
• other applicable evaluations
  - industry best practices, well tried components, well tried designs, common cause failure, fault tolerance, exclusivity of control, tamper resistance, program to support

If somebody could still get hurt despite the alternative control measures under consideration - It is clear – The task requires lockout to be applied
RISK ASSESSMENT
How to protect employees from the release of hazardous energy

One aspect of the Z244.1 revision that sets it apart from previous versions is the emphasis placed on risk assessment and the essential role risk assessment has in policies, programs and procedures for controlling hazardous energy.

ANSI/ASSE Z244.1-2016 and other national consensus standards may be ordered through:

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520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Email: customerservice@asse.org
Website: www.asse.org
847-669-2929 – Monday thru Friday
(8:30am – 5:00pm Central Standard Time)

www.asse.org/standards