Plastic Molding Safety Stats and Facts

FACTS

Hazards associated with injection molding machines are crushing injuries or amputations and occur if a worker:

- Reaches into a machine for any reason.
- Reaches around, under, or over guards.
- Operates a machine with missing or inoperable guards or interlocks.
- Not used to the equipment.

Injection molding machines can cause the following:

- Eye irritation or damage.
- Breathing problems.
- Lung damage or cancer.
- Worsening of existing health problems.
- Risk of explosion or fire.

The main causes of injuries within plastic molding manufacturing are:

- Muscular stress caused by manual handling (the largest cause of all injuries in the industry)
- Slipping or tripping
- Chemical exposures
- Accidents with machinery, tools, and equipment

STATS

- 14% of all reportable accidents happened as a result of contacting moving machinery. Machine safety resulted in the largest number of enforcement notices served by HSE in plastic companies.
- According to BLS data, the rate of occupational injuries

resulting in lost workdays was 21% higher for plastics processing.

- The 30 reports concerned 26 accidents and/or interventions involving plastic injection moulding machines, one accident/intervention related to a rubber injection moulding machine, one accident/intervention related to a thermoforming machine, and two others related to blow moulding machines. However, the examples presented in this section and the main topics developed therefrom relate only to injection moulding machines.