

OSHA Suggestions for Protecting Employees



UniTherm insulation jackets are ideal for protecting employees from high temperature processing equipment such as, barrels, extruders, dies and molds involved in plastics manufacturing.



“The injection unit and other accessible parts posing thermal hazards should be insulated or guarded. Place warning signs where hot parts are necessarily exposed.”

-www.osha.gov concerning machine guarding

All UniTherm insulation jackets are marked with sufficient thermal and shock hazard warning signs.

Custom warning patches are also available as required by the user.

Manual Feed of Plastics Materials

Potential Hazards:

- Skin burns from contact with the heated barrel or burns from splatter of hot plastic and gases/vapors.
- Hands or limbs caught in machine while loosening trapped materials at feed throat.
- Slips, trips, and falls at material feed location.

Possible Solutions:

- The injection unit and other accessible parts posing thermal hazards should be insulated or guarded. Place warning signs where hot parts are necessarily exposed.
- Place a fixed guard (usually a grid) or a distance guard (usually the hopper) at the feed throat. Do not place your hand into the feed throat.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as a heat-resistant gloves, long-sleeved shirt and eye/face protection, when necessary.
- Use a ladder, rolling stairs, platform, or other safe means to access the hopper or feed throat area. Do not climb on the machine.



Figure 7. A guard equipped with safety signs covers the barrel of the injection unit.

Excerpt from www.osha.gov concerning machine guarding