



Machinery Safety
Through Operational Learning

Perimeter Fence Guards

Keep the danger zone out of reach



LEARNING TEAMS INC

The perimeter fence guard must prevent people from reaching through, over, under or around.

1 Standard perimeter fence guard

A perimeter fence guard should be at least 1600 mm high and at least 900 mm away from the danger zone. Further or higher if there is a projectile hazard.



2 Perimeter fence guard between 1000 mm and 1600 mm

If the perimeter fence guard is between 1000 mm and 1600 mm high, it must be at least 1500 mm away from the danger zone.



3 Tall perimeter fence guard

Perimeter fence guards above 2700 mm do not allow a worker to reach over.



4 No perimeter fence guards less than 1000 mm

No perimeter fence guards should be less than 1000 mm high as they could allow a worker to topple or fall into the danger zone.



5 Consider projectile hazards

If there is a projectile hazard, the perimeter fence guard should be higher or further away.



The perimeter fence guard must prevent reaching through, over, under and around



Through

Use mesh or solid guarding to stop fingers, hands or arms reaching through.



Over

The height and distance of the perimeter fence guard must stop people reaching over.



Under

The gap from the floor to the fence should be less than 180 mm to prevent whole body entry.



Around

Ensure the perimeter fence guard layout stops people reaching around guard can be used to climb or over, steps or nearby structures.



Consider reasonably foreseeable misuse

Items such as tables, steps, small ladders or other objects near the perimeter fence guard can be used to climb or reach over. Keep these items away from the fence.



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Note: Measurements are from AS/NZS 4024.1801:2025. Always consider reasonably foreseeable misuse. Always refer to the applicable standard and carry out a machinery risk assessment for design or verification.