

SAFETY BULLETIN: LOCKOUT/TAGOUT SAVES LIVES

What is Lockout/Tagout (LO/TO)?

LO/TO is a safety standard designed to help control hazardous energy to protect workers from its dangerous effects at ready mixed concrete plants.

Compliance with LO/TO prevents injuries, amputations, and even death.

LO/TO programs are aimed at protecting workers performing service or maintenance on machinery and equipment that may be exposed to injuries from unexpected energization, startup of machinery or equipment, or release of stored energy in equipment.

In order to protect these workers, the LO/TO standard requires that all employers “establish a program and utilize procedures for affixing appropriate lockout devices or tagout devices to energy isolating devices, and to otherwise disable machines or equipment to prevent unexpected energization, start-up, or release of stored energy...”.

Lockout/Tagout Recommendations

Concrete producers should implement LO/TO programs that are tailored to their concrete plants.

Plans should address ready mixed concrete industry activities, such as constructing, installing, setting up, adjusting, inspecting, modifying, bypassing guards and maintaining and/or servicing machines or equipment. As well as, lubrication, cleaning, or unjamming of conveyor belts and making adjustments or tool changes to equipment at plants.

All producers should reference the federal or their provincial LO/TO standard for specific requirements.

Actions

Considerations for safe LO/TO practices:

- Think first
- Use standardized, durable locks
- Tags should be legible, bright and identifiable
- Use only one lock per each Authorized Employee
- Eliminate spare lock keys
- Keep procedures logical and up to date
- Utilize a LO/TO Logbook
- Train all employees on LO/TO
- Verify LO/TO

Resources: NRMCA & OSHA