

**WORKSAFE SERVICES DIVISION  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATIONS**



<b>Topic</b>	Lockout – Means of isolating energy	Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services
<b>Statute</b>	<i>Regulation 91-191</i>	Date Issued: April 12, 1999
<b>Section</b>	239(1)	Date Revised: Jan10, 2006

**239(1)** An employer shall ensure that in addition to the normal control start and stop mechanism, a machine has a means of isolating the energy source to the machine that is

- a) lockable,
- b) in a location familiar to all employees, and
- c) properly identified.

**Question**

Does a plate that isolates the stop/start button, meet the requirements of section 239(1)(a)? Is it “in addition to the normal start and stop mechanism”?

**Response**

There are plates that are used to isolate stop/start buttons, which are inserted (and can only be inserted) when the button is in the “off” position. They prevent the stop/start button from being activated and they accommodate a padlock. Such plates meet the requirements of 239(1)(a), provided all power sources to the machine are controlled by that start/stop button. Depending on the type of machine, it may be necessary, in addition to the start/stop plate, to release secondary energy sources in order to obtain a zero energy state.

Other types of equipment that could meet the requirement of 239(1)(a) (provided they control all power sources) are disconnects and isolation systems.

The lockable plate, disconnect or isolation system that is “in addition to the normal start and stop mechanism” would also have to meet the requirements of 239(b) and (c).