

**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:

**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. They 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).

The plate is the part that is “in addition to the normal start and stop mechanism”. It would also have to meet the requirements of (b) and (c).

The intention of the regulation is that if a worker turns the machine off and is working on it, another worker cannot come along and push the start button and activate the machine. The mechanism described above accomplishes that purpose. The plate and the workers padlock will prevent another person from activating the machine.