

SILO SAFETY CHECKLIST



Agriculture can be a dangerous industry. Too often we hear or read of farm incidents where a farm worker or family member is seriously injured or killed. WorkSafeNB believes these injuries are preventable. Please review the following checklist to help ensure your silos are safe.

SILO OWNER'S / MANUFACTURER MANUAL

- Keep a copy of the silo owner's manual for safety instructions and training references. It is important to follow all safety, emergency rescue procedures and operation instructions in the manual. Note: Anyone who has not read and does not understand the operation or safety instructions in the manual should not be allowed to work in or near silos or bins.

SILOS SAFETY ALERT SYMBOL, SIGNS, LABELS AND DECALS

- Ensure all safety decals and signs are attached to equipment, bins, and silos as per the manufacturer's specifications. Check decals and signs regularly to make sure they are clean and in good condition. Replace decals as needed.

LOCKOUT/TAG OUT OF CONVEYING & MOVING EQUIPMENT (EX: AUGER)

- Establish a written lockout procedure for a machine to prevent the system from starting up while someone is working on it.
- Ensure that all employees who may have to lock out a machine have been adequately trained.
- Provide a safety lock and key to all employees who may have to lock out a machine.
- Ensure that in addition to the normal control start and stop mechanism, a machine has a means of isolating the energy source that is properly identified, lockable and in a location familiar to all employees.

SAFEGUARDS

- Provide adequate safeguards to protect employees from contact with moving machinery parts.
- Provide a safeguard strong enough to contain or deflect any flying object.
- Ensure machines are erected, installed, assembled, started, operated, used, handled, stored, stopped, serviced, tested, cleaned, adjusted, maintained, repaired and dismantled in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- Ensure that safeguards are re-installed if removed for repairs or maintenance.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

- Identify the hazards in and around the silo.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Determine and make available the PPE that should be worn by the employee inside a silo. (Ex. fall arrest system, mask, respiratory protection)

SILOS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A CONFINED SPACE. THE FOUR CRITERIA BELOW ARE NORMALLY PRESENT.

- 1. Enclosed or partially enclosed space.
- 2. Not designed or intended for continuous human occupancy.
- 3. Restricted access or egress.
- 4. A space that is or may become hazardous to a person entering it because of its design, construction, location, atmosphere, or the materials or substances in it, or other conditions.

A confined space procedure is required.

CONFINED SPACE PROCEDURES

- Assign a competent person to administer the confined space entry program.
- Ensure that a confined space procedure has been established for silos, including somebody standing by in case of emergencies.
- Ensure to establish emergency or rescue procedures and that the appropriate rescue equipment for the specific type of silo is available.
- Ensure to establish a procedure for silos to vent before entering (natural or forced ventilation), and that the procedure includes testing for oxygen levels, combustible dust and toxic gases.
- Only allow necessary entry in the silo by knowledgeable, trained and qualified employees.

This checklist is meant to be used as a guideline only and doesn't include all safety precautions that are required.

Always refer to the requirements of Regulation 91-191- Occupational Health and Safety Act, which supersedes this list.

Let's work together to build a safer New Brunswick.