



Polycarbonate Machine Guarding

Features and Benefits

Clear polycarbonate machine guarding panels block any small debris that could potentially injure any personnel walking by

The clear polycarbonate guarding panels allow maintenance employees to visually inspect and regularly monitor the machine insuring it is always working efficiently and up to specification cage gates

Industry Group: Protective Guarding Manufacturers Association (ProGMA)



The Opportunity

An aerospace design and manufacturing company, creators of systems and components for virtually every aircraft flying today, had a safety issue in protecting employees from hazardous debris intermittently ejected from an automated system. One of the facility's machines was projecting small particles of debris out of the work area and into a defined personnel walkway creating the potential hazard. Their material handling dealer worked with them to find a machine guarding solution that protected personnel from these hazards while allowing workers to visually observe the machine through the guarding to ensure it was properly running.

The Solution

While a majority of machine guarding is constructed of wire mesh panels, the dealer knew that a different solution was needed for this application. The manufacturer needed a solid barrier, but did not want to block the automated process from visual

inspection. The dealer proposed integrating clear solid polycarbonate panels into the existing guarding. The clear solid panels would block ejected debris that was passing through standard wire mesh guarding panels. Furthermore, the clear panels retain the visibility feature required for process inspection.

Thanks to the guarding system originally used, there was no need to reconfigure the entire layout to make this modification work. The original modular sized wire mesh panels were removed and replaced with the new clear panels in their safety yellow powder coated frames. A few bolts secured them into place. The guarding modifications were made quickly and easily, with a minimum of process downtime.

The aerospace company was very pleased they were able to find such an easy maintenance free safety solution that met all of their needs. The polycarbonate machine guarding panels were aesthetically pleasing to both employees and facility visitors, and more importantly, kept them safe.

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