Power Press Brakes

OSHA requirements regarding safety of Power Press Brakes is found in the CFR 1910.212 – general requirements for all machines. This standard addresses the need to provide machine guards to prevent the operator of other employees from coming in contact with the point of operation while the machine is being cycled. There are a number of recognized guarding methods available which include physical guard, guarding devices and electronic safety devices.

Guarding Options:
- Physical Barrier Guards
- Fixed Barrier Guard – provided protection to the operator by not permitting access to the point of operation of the press brake.
- Adjustable Barrier Guard – similar in nature to the fixed barrier guard, yet adjustable to accommodate different machine set-ups and material thickness.

Guarding Devices
- Two Hand Control - requires the simultaneous application of both hands to operate the controls so that the operator’s hands are kept out of the point of operation area while the machine is activated. These controls can be electrical, pneumatic or mechanical.
- Pull Back – cables and wristlets attached to the operators hand and connected to the upper die or slide of the press. Pullbacks are designed to withdraw the operator’s hands when the die or slide approaches the closed position. It is essential that the pull back device be properly maintained and adjusted to fit each operator, and that the entire operation be properly supervised.

Presence Sensing
- Light Curtain – device designed to arrange a sensing field or area and to deactivate the clutch control of the power press brake when an operator’s hand or any other part of their body is within such field or area.

Restraint
- Holdout - prevents operator from reaching into the point of operation at any time. This is achieved by providing wrist straps and firmly anchored restrained cords or cables.