

# safety Flash

## LOTO Tags



### Did You Know...?

LOTO is the second most cited OSHA regulatory violation. The rules say that all energy sources must be turned off and either locked out or tagged out while you are working on the machine. By protecting the worker from the accidental release of energy, the rule has already saved countless lives.

### LOTO Tag Rules:

#### 1) **Make tags durable –**

Plastic tags are preferable to paper tags, as they resist oil, sunlight, and water. Tags should have a 1/2 inch hole so that they can have room for a lock. Also, each tag has to pass a 50 pound pull test. However, don't overdo it, because they should also be easily removed at the end of service. Old tags left on the machine only confuse people.

#### 2) **Attaching and then discarding a tag –**

Usually, cotton string, nylon cords, wire, ball chain, and ties are used. OSHA requires that whatever you use have "the general design and basic characteristics of being at least equal to a one-piece, all environment-tolerant nylon cable tie."

#### 3) **Make the tag stand out –**

The tag must be able to be easily seen by everybody. Remember that someone's life is on the line. Make tags large enough to read. **Remember, OSHA says that you must be able to read the tag from a distance of 5 feet.**

#### 4) **Warnings on tags –**

The tag is protecting someone's life. Make sure your message shouts out loud and proud. Make it clear. "Do not operate" and "Keep your hands out" are classic favorites. Also, try to use symbols as much as possible.



**A well-designed system of safety tags is the last line of defense, so don't underestimate its importance. A life may be at stake.**

