

# Employee Operating Instructions for Guarding Farm Field and Farmstead Equipment

OSHA regulations<sup>1</sup> require that every employee who works with farm field<sup>2</sup> or farmstead<sup>3</sup> equipment shall be instructed in the safe operation and servicing of all covered equipment with which s/he is or will be involved. At a minimum, that instruction must include the safe operating procedures listed here. Such information shall be provided at the time of initial assignment and at least annually thereafter.

1. Keep all guards in place when the machine is in operation.
2. Permit no riders on farm field equipment other than persons required for instruction or assistance in machine operation.
3. Stop engine, disconnect the power source, and wait for all machine movement to stop before servicing, adjusting, cleaning, or unclogging the equipment, except where the machine must be running to be properly serviced or maintained, in which case the employer shall instruct employees as to all steps and procedures which are necessary to safely service or maintain the equipment.
4. Make sure everyone is clear of machinery before starting the engine, engaging power, or operating the machine.
5. Lock out electrical power before performing maintenance or service on farmstead equipment.

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<sup>1</sup>29CFR 1928.57, Guarding of farm field equipment, farmstead equipment, and cotton gins, part (a)(6)

<sup>2</sup>“Farm field equipment” means tractors or implements, including self-propelled implements, or any combination thereof used in agricultural operations. [29 CFR 1928.57(a)(5)]

<sup>3</sup>“Farmstead equipment” means agricultural equipment normally used in a stationary manner. This includes, but is not limited to, materials handling equipment and accessories for such equipment whether or not the equipment is an integral part of a building. [29 CFR 1928.57(a)(5)]