## Materials Handling Systems Safe Operating and Guarding Standards

## Use of ESPE

## 10.4. Electro Sensitive Protection Equipment (ESPE)

ESPE devices, such as photoelectric curtains, may be installed to safeguard dangerous parts of the equipment. The installation must satisfy the requirements of Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER). New equipment fitted with ESPE devices must also satisfy the requirements of the Supply of Machinery Regulations 1992 (SMR). Compliance requires effective exchange of information between those involved in designing, manufacturing, supplying and using the ESPE devices to ensure the integrity of the equipment's overall protective systems. An inadequately installed ESPE can adversely affect the overall standard of protection and control. You can use the following questions to help you decide if the ESPE devices are adequate. For you to have confidence that the ESPE devices are adequate the answers to all questions should be "Yes".

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Questions to help determine if control system is adequate.	Yes	No
10.4.1. Where ESPE equipment has been fitted to an existing machine, have you obtained from the		
supplier of the ESPE comprehensive documentation setting out the capability and limitations of the		
equipment?		
10.4.2. Have you confirmed that the person installing the ESPE equipment has obtained this		
documentation and used it when installing the ESPE on your machine?		
10.4.3. Have you confirmed that the person installing the ESPE equipment was competent to do so?		
10.4.4. Did you obtain an assurance from the person installing the ESPE equipment that the		
machine's overall safety and control systems have not been adversely affected by the installation of		
the ESPE equipment?		
10.4.5. In the case of a new machine already fitted with ESPE devices have you obtained the		
documentation mentioned in 10.4.1 above from the machine manufacturer or supplier?		
10.4.6. Have you obtained written instructions from the supplier explaining how the safeguarding		
system is intended to operate, how to operate, maintain and test it and the action to be taken if it fails		
to operate correctly?		
10.4.7. Have you trained and instructed your employees to understand how the ESPE devices are		
intended to operate, how to operate, maintain and test them and what action to take if they fail to		
operate correctly?		
10.4.8. Have you put in place a formal system under which functional checks on all ESPE devices are		
carried out every day or every shift?		
10.4.9. Have you put in place a formal system under which a competent person carries out periodic		
inspections and tests on ESPE devices in addition to the functional checks carried out every day or		

every shift?	
10.4.10. Have you taken effective steps to ensure that access to the dangerous parts of the machine	
from any direction not protected by an ESPE device is prevented?	
10.4.11. Have you taken effective steps to prevent anyone remaining between ESPE and the	
dangerous parts of the machine?	
10.4.12. Have you confirmed that the ESPE devices are positioned in accordance with BS EN 999 to	
ensure that they provide the protection required for the approach speeds of parts of the human body	
specified in that standard? See Appendix II	