

Balers

Definition: A machine used to compress scrap into bales by means of chain-driven or hydraulically-powered rams and hoppers.

Potential Hazards:

Aerosolized particles
Dust
Electric shock
Fire
Flying/protruding parts
Moving hydraulic parts
Noise
Oil, motor, hydraulic fluids
Pinch points
Sharp objects/edges
Slippery walking/working surfaces
Sprain/strain injuries
Swinging/suspended material

Guarding/Shielding:

Point of operation guards must prevent a worker from having any part of his/her body in the machine's danger zone during the operating cycle.

Fixed shielding with overhead protection must be installed when the operating station is situated near overhead hazards.

Power transmission parts such as gears, shafts, belts or chains must be guarded to prevent accidental contact.

Protective Equipment:

Hard hats*
Safety glasses*
Steel toe/steel shank work boots*
Gloves as needed
Respirator as needed
*minimum requirements

Safety Procedures:

Prior to performing any maintenance operation, including clearing a jam, the baler and all equipment directly associated with it, including conveyors, rams and any other moving parts, must be locked and/or tagged out to prevent inadvertent activation.

Provide emergency stops that are easily accessible from any point along the operating line, including not only the baler itself, but also any conveyor mechanism that feeds it. Balers and conveyors should be interlocked, such that stopping one automatically stops the other.

Sufficient safe clearances must be allowed between machinery and adjacent aisles or passageways. Permanent aisles and passageways must be clearly marked.

Motors and other electrical equipment must be grounded.

All walking/working surfaces must be kept clean and dry.

Where the vertical distance between walking or working surfaces exceeds four feet (48 inches), railings or fall protection equipment must be utilized.

Designate and enforce a safety zone, the area in which the operator of the equipment must be while the equipment is in use.

Keep suspended loads clear of walking/working areas, power lines, obstructions, buildings, and other hazardous locations.

Provide for suitable drainage in baling pit or chamber.

Operators of the machinery and of material handling equipment (cranes, material handlers, skid steers, loaders, etc.) must maintain positive contact with each other at all times, either visually, or by radio or other audible device.