



Danger Zone: Bacon Meat Slicer

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Attention: Food manufacturing plants, retail meat departments, butcher shops and employees who process meat.

Workers who operate and/or perform routine maintenance on Treif bacon slicer machines and depend on interlocks to protect them from contact with the cutting blade are at risk of being seriously injured or killed.

Recently a worker sustained a serious injury while reaching into this machine while cleaning out pieces of bacon parts near the cutting blade (danger zone). This incident resulted in an amputation of upper part of the worker's hand and fingers. Other injuries also can occur when exposed to a moving/rotating part such as:

- **Severe cuts and laceration (blood loss)**
- **Broken bones**

Injuries like these are preventable.

Implementing a lockout/tagout program and training, and other safe work practices are essential to keeping workers safe during machine operation and routine maintenance.

Use these resources to help protect workers who operate and perform routine maintenance on Treif bacon slicers and other machinery:

- [Food & Beverage Processing Safety](#)
- [Lockout/Tagout \(LOTO\) \(Control of Hazardous Energy, Interlock Devices\)](#)
- [Machine Safety](#)
- [Cuts: A serious problem for the food processing industry - SHARP safety tip](#)



Courtesy of L&I

Don't rely on interlocks alone to protect employees from energized machinery! Lockout/tagout is essential to protection workers from accidental start-up, and stored and residual energy. ([WAC 296-803](#))

In addition to mechanical danger of the work, employers need to identify and address all site-specific hazards as part of their written required Accident Prevention Program (APP), Job Hazard/Safety Analysis, and, when applicable, other safety programs.

Youth under age of 18 are not permitted to operate this or other powered machinery or equipment. Get no cost assistance from L&I or visit L&I's Safety & Health webpage for training, videos, and other resources to help strengthen your safety program.

Share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety network.

*This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. **This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations.** The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. DOSH recommends you also check related rules for additional requirements.*