

**Alexander County Government
Lock out/Tag out
29 CFR 1910-147**

**LOCK OUT/TAG OUT
29 CFR 1910.147
WRITTEN PROGRAM INCLUDING TRAINING GUIDELINES**

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I. Written Program

Alexander County will review and evaluate this standard practice instruction on an annual basis, or when changes occur to 29 CFR 1910.147, that prompt revision of this document, or when facility operational changes occur that require a revision of this document. Effective implementation of this program requires support from all levels of management within this company. This written program will be communicated to all personnel that are affected by it. It encompasses the total workplace, regardless of the number of workers employed or the number of work shifts. It is designed to establish clear goals, and objectives.

II. General Requirements

Alexander County will establish lock out/tag out procedures through the use of this document. This standard practice instruction covers the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment in which the unexpected energization or start up of the machines or equipment, or release of stored energy could cause injury to employees.

- A. Application: This instruction applies to the control of energy during servicing and/or maintenance of machines and equipment. Normal business hours are not covered. Servicing and/or maintenance which takes place during normal production operations is covered if:
- a) An employee is required to remove or bypass a guard or other safety device.
 - b) An employee is required to place any part of his or her body into an area on a machine or piece of equipment where work is actually performed upon the material being processed (point of operation) or where an associated danger zone exists during a machine operating cycle.
 - c) Exception: Minor tool changes and adjustments, and other minor servicing activities, which take place during normal production operations, are not covered if they are routine, repetitive, and integral to the use of the equipment for production, provided that the work is performed using alternative measures which provide effective protection in accordance with company operational procedures.
 - d) This instruction does not apply to the following:
 - 1. Work on cord and plug connected electric equipment for which exposure to the hazards of unexpected energization or start up of the equipment is controlled by the unplugging of the equipment from the energy source and by the plug being under the exclusive control of the employee performing the servicing or maintenance.
 - 2. Hot tap operations involving transmission and distribution systems for substances such as gas, steam, water or petroleum products when they are performed on

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pressurized pipelines, provided it is demonstrated that (1) continuity of service is essential; (2) shutdown of the system is impractical; and (3) documented company procedures are followed, and special equipment is used which will provide proven effective protection for our employees.

III. Program Implementation

Alexander County will establish a program and utilize procedures for affixing appropriate lock out devices or tag-out devices to energy isolating devices, and to otherwise disable machines or equipment to prevent unexpected energization, start-up or release of stored energy in order to prevent injury to employees.

A. Energy control program: The County shall establish a program consisting of energy control procedures, employee training and periodic inspections to ensure that before any employee performs any servicing or maintenance on a machine or equipment where the unexpected energizing, start up or release of stored energy could occur and cause injury, the machine or equipment shall be isolated from the energy source, and rendered inoperative.

- a) Tag-out: If an energy-isolating device is not capable of being locked out, this employer's energy control program shall utilize a tag-out system.
- b) Lockout: If an energy isolating device is capable of being locked out, this employer's energy control program shall utilize lockout, unless it can be demonstrated that the utilization of a tag-out system will provide full employee protection.
- c) Future requirements: Whenever replacement or major repair, renovation or modification of a machine or equipment is performed, and whenever new machines or equipment are installed, energy isolating devices for such machine or equipment shall be designed to accept a lockout device.

B. Full Employee Protection

- a) Tag-out location: When a tag-out device is used on an energy-isolating device, which is capable of being locked out, the tag-out device shall be attached at the same location that the lockout device would have been attached, and this employer shall demonstrate that the tag-out program will provide a level of safety equivalent to that obtained by using a lockout program.
- b) Lockout equivalency demonstration: In demonstrating that a level of safety is achieved in the tag-out program which is equivalent to the level of safety obtained by using a lockout program, this employer shall demonstrate full compliance with all tag-out related provisions together with such additional elements as are necessary to provide the equivalent safety available from the use of a lockout device. Additional means to be considered as part of the demonstration of full employee protection shall include where possible the implementation of additional safety measures such as the:

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1. Removal of an isolating circuit elements.
2. Blocking of a controlling switches.
3. Opening of an extra disconnecting devices.
4. Removal of a valve handles to reduce the likelihood of inadvertent energization.

C. Energy Control Procedure Exceptions: Once a facility evaluation has been accomplished, documented procedures will not be developed when the following conditions exist:

- a) The machine or equipment has no potential for stored or residual energy or re-accumulation of stored energy after shut down which could endanger employees.
- b) The machine or equipment has a single energy source, which can be readily identified and isolated.
- c) The isolation and locking out of that energy source will completely de-energize and deactivate the machine or equipment.
- d) The machine or equipment is isolated from that energy source and locked out during servicing or maintenance.
- e) A single lockout device will achieve a locked-out condition.
- f) The lockout device is under the exclusive control of the authorized employee performing the servicing or maintenance.
- g) The servicing or maintenance does not create hazards for other employees.
- h) The County, in utilizing this exception, has had no accidents involving the unexpected activation or re-energization of the machine or equipment during servicing or maintenance in the event of such occurrences; energy control procedures will be developed.

D. Energy Control Procedures

- a) Once a facility evaluation has been accomplished, procedures shall be developed, documented and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy.
- b) Procedural format: The following format will be followed for each machine requiring procedures. The Department Head or designee will be responsible for the implementation of these procedures. The procedures shall clearly and specifically outline the scope, purpose, authorization, rules, and techniques to be utilized for the control of hazardous energy, and the means to enforce compliance including, but not limited to, the following:

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1. A specific statement of the intended use of the procedure.
2. Specific procedural steps for shutting down, isolating, blocking and securing machines or equipment to control hazardous energy (manufacturers specification will be followed whenever possible.
3. Specific procedural steps for the placement, removal and transfer of lockout devices or tag-out devices and the person(s) responsible for them.
4. Specific requirements for testing a machine or equipment to determine and verify the effectiveness of lockout devices, tag-out devices, and other energy control measures.

E. Facility/Department Evaluation: Management shall evaluate each department to determine which machines or pieces of equipment require steps for shutting down, isolating, blocking and securing machines or equipment to control hazardous energy. A complete listing of machines/equipment having procedures will be maintained.

a) Machine/Equipment lockout/tag-out listing:

Department	Date Evaluated	Machine/Equipment Type
Maintenance	08/30/06	Wire Welder Cut Off Saw Bandsaw Porter Bandsaw HVAC Units
Garage	08/31/06	Break Lay Lift Air Compressor
Animal Control	08/31/06	Gas Chamber
Landfill	08/31/06	963 Track Loader 615 Pan Catapiller 355 T-Rex Compactor 544 H John Deere Rubber Tire Loader 928 G Catapillar Rubber Tire Loader 95 Freightliner Road Tractor Ford Dump Truck International Dump Truck Volvo Garbage Truck

F. Protective Materials and Hardware: Appropriate lockout devices such as; locks, tags, chains, wedges, key blocks, adapter pins, self-locking fasteners, or other hardware shall be provided by this employer for isolating, securing or blocking of machines or equipment from

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energy sources based on the individual machine/equipment evaluation conducted by the following personnel authorized to evaluate lockout/tag-out requirements:

DUTY TITLE

1. Maintenance Supervisor
2. Maintenance Mechanic
3. Risk Manager
4. Safety Coordinators/Safety Committee

a) Selection criteria

1. Lockout/tag-out devices shall be singularly identified; shall be the only devices(s) used for controlling energy; shall not be used for other purposes; and shall meet the following requirements:
2. Selected lockout and tag-out devices shall be capable of withstanding the environment to which they are exposed for the maximum period of time that exposure is expected.
3. Selected tag-out devices shall be constructed and printed so that exposure to weather conditions or wet and damp locations will not cause the tag to deteriorate or the message on the tag to become illegible.
4. Tags shall not deteriorate when used in corrosive environments such as areas where acid and alkali chemicals are handled and stored.
5. Standardization within the facility. Lockout and tag-out devices shall be standardized within the facility in at least one of the following criteria: Color; shape; or size; and additionally, in the case of tag-out devices, print and format shall be standardized.
6. Removal requirements
 - a. Lockout devices. Lockout devices shall be substantial enough to prevent removal without the use of excessive force or unusual techniques, such as with the use of bolt cutters or other metal cutting tools.
 - b. Tag-out devices. Tag-out devices, including and their means of attachment, shall be substantial enough to prevent inadvertent or accidental removal. Tag-out device attachment means shall be of a non-reusable type, attachable by hand, self-locking, and non-releasable with a minimum unlocking strength of no less than 50 pounds and having the general design and basic characteristics of being at least equivalent to a one-piece, all-environment-tolerant nylon cable tie.

b) Identification requirements.

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1. Lockout/tag-out devices shall indicate the identity of the employee applying the device(s).
2. Tag-out devices shall warn against hazardous conditions if the machine or equipment is energized and shall include a legend such as the following: Do Not Start, Do Not Open, Do Not Close, Do Not Energize, Do Not Operate, etc.

G. Periodic Inspections and Certifications

a) Inspections: The County shall conduct a periodic inspection of the energy control procedure for each machine or piece of equipment at least annually to ensure that the procedure and the requirements of this instruction are being followed.

1. The periodic inspection shall be performed by an authorized employee other than the ones(s) utilizing the energy control procedure being inspected.
2. Inspections will be conducted by the following personnel authorized to evaluate lockout/tag-out requirements:

DUTY TITLE

1. Risk Manager
2. Safety Coordinators/Safety Committee
3. Maintenance Supervisor

3. The periodic inspection shall be conducted to correct any deviations or inadequacies identified.
4. Tag-out inspections: Where tag-out is used for energy control, the periodic inspection shall include a review, between the inspector and each authorized and affected employee, of that employee's responsibilities under the energy control procedure being inspected.

b) Certifications: The County shall certify that the periodic inspections have been performed. The certification shall at a minimum identify:

1. The machine or equipment on which the energy control procedure was being utilized.
2. The date of the inspection.
3. The employees included in the inspection.
4. The person performing the inspection.

IV. Training

- A. The County shall provide training to ensure that the purpose and function of the energy control program are understood by employees and that the knowledge and skills required for the safe application, usage, and removal of the energy controls are acquired by employees. The training shall include the following:
 - a) Each authorized employee shall receive training in the recognition of applicable hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy available in the workplace, and the methods and means necessary for energy isolation and control.
 - b) Each affected employee shall be instructed in the purpose and use of the energy control procedure.
 - c) All other employees whose work operations are or may be in an area where energy control procedures may be utilized, shall be instructed about the procedure, and about the prohibition relating to attempts to restart or reenergize machines or equipment which are locked out or tagged out.
- B. When tag-out systems are used, employees shall also be trained in the following limitations of tags:
 - a) Tags are essentially warning devices affixed to energy isolating devices, and do not provide the physical restraint on those devices that is provided by a lock.
 - b) When a tag is attached to an energy isolating means, it is not to be removed without authorization of the authorized person responsible for it, and it is never to be bypassed, ignored, or otherwise defeated.
 - c) Tags must be legible and understandable by all authorized employees, affected employees, and all other employees whose work operations are or may be in the area, in order to be effective. Non-legible or missing tags will be reported to the Safety Coordinator immediately.
 - d) Tags and their means of attachment must be made of materials, which will withstand the environmental conditions encountered in the workplace.
 - e) Tags may evoke a false sense of security, and their meaning needs to be understood as part of the overall energy control program.
 - f) Tags must be securely attached to energy isolating devices so that they cannot be inadvertently or accidentally detached during use.
- C. Refresher Training

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- a) Retraining shall be provided for all authorized and affected employees whenever there is a change in their job assignments, a change in machines, equipment or processes that present a new hazard, or when there is a change in the energy control procedures.
 - b) Additional retraining shall also be conducted whenever a periodic inspection reveals, or whenever management has reason to believe, that there are deviations from or inadequacies in the employee's knowledge or use of the energy control procedures.
 - c) The retraining shall re-establish employee proficiency and introduce new or revised control methods and procedures, as necessary.
 - d) Certification: This employer shall certify that employee training has been accomplished and is being kept up to date. The certification shall contain each employee's name and dates of training.
- D. Energy Isolation: Lockout or tag-out shall be performed only by the authorized employees who are performing the servicing or maintenance.
- E. Notification of Employees: Affected employees shall be notified of the application and removal of lockout devices or tag-out devices. Notification shall be given before the controls are applied, and after they are removed from the machine or equipment.
- F. Application of Control: The lockout or tag-out procedures shall cover the following elements and actions and shall be done in the following sequence:
- a) Preparation for shutdown: Before an authorized or affected employee turns off a machine or equipment, the authorized employee shall have knowledge of the type and magnitude of the energy, the hazards of the energy to be controlled, and the method or means to control the energy.
 - b) Machine or equipment shutdown: The machine or equipment shall be turned off or shut down using the procedures established for the machine or equipment. An orderly shutdown must be utilized to avoid any additional or increased hazard(s) to employees as a result of the equipment stoppage.
 - c) Machine or equipment isolation: All energy isolating devices that are needed to control the energy to the machine or equipment shall be physically located and operated in such a manner as to isolate the machine or equipment from the energy source(s).
 - d) Lockout device application
 - 1. Lockout or tag-out devices shall be affixed to each energy-isolating device by authorized employees.
 - 2. Lockout devices, where used, shall be affixed in a manner to that will hold the energy isolating devices in a "safe" or "off" position.

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3. Tag-out devices, where used, shall be affixed in such a manner as will clearly indicate that the operation or movement of energy isolating devices from the "safe" or "off" position is prohibited.
- e) Tag-out device application.
1. Where tag-out devices are used with energy isolating devices designed with the capability of being locked, the tag attachment shall be fastened at the same point at which the lock would have been attached.
 2. Where a tag cannot be affixed directly to the energy isolating device, the tag shall be located as close as safely possible to the device, in a position that will be immediately obvious to anyone attempting to operate the device.
- f) Stored energy
1. Following the application of lockout or tag-out devices to energy isolating devices, all potentially hazardous stored or residual energy shall be relieved, disconnected, restrained, and otherwise rendered safe.
 2. If there is a possibility of re-accumulation of stored energy to a hazardous level, verification of isolation shall be continued until the servicing or maintenance is completed, or until the possibility of such accumulation no longer exists.
- g) Verification of isolation: Prior to starting work on machines or equipment that have been locked out or tagged out, the authorized employee shall verify that isolation and de-energization of the machine or equipment have been accomplished.
- G. Release from Lockout or Tag-out
- a) Before lockout or tag-out devices are removed. Before lockout or tag-out devices are removed and energy is restored to the machine or equipment, procedures shall be followed and actions taken by the authorized employee(s) to ensure the following:
 1. The machine or equipment: The work area shall be inspected to ensure that nonessential items have been removed and to ensure that machine or equipment components are operationally intact.
 2. Employees: The work area shall be checked to ensure that all employees have been safely positioned or removed.
 - b) After lockout or tag-out devices are removed. After lockout or tag-out devices are removed and before a machine or equipment is started, affected employees shall be notified that the lockout or tag-out device(s) have been removed.
 - c) Lockout or tag-out devices removal. Each lockout or tag-out device shall be removed from each energy-isolating device by the employee who applied the device. When the authorized employee who applied the lockout or tag-out device is not available to

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remove it, that device may be removed under the direction of authorized manager, provided that specific procedures and training for such removal have been developed, documented and incorporated into this employer's energy control program. This employer shall demonstrate that the specific procedure provides equivalent safety to the removal of the device by the authorized employee who applied it. The specific procedure shall include at least the following elements:

1. Verification that the authorized employee who applied the device is not at the facility.
2. Making all reasonable efforts to contact the authorized employee to inform him/her that his/her lockout or tag-out device has been removed.
3. Ensuring that the authorized employee has this knowledge before resuming work at that facility.

H. Testing of Machines, Equipment, or Components

- a) Testing or positioning of machines, equipment or components thereof: In situations in which lockout or tag-out devices must be temporarily removed from the energy isolating device and the machine or equipment energized to test or position the machine, equipment or component thereof, the following sequence of actions shall be followed:

1. Clear the machine or equipment of tools and materials.
2. Remove employees from the machine or equipment area.
3. Remove the lockout or tag-out devices as specified as part of the individual machine procedures.
4. Energize and proceed with testing or positioning.
5. De-energize all systems and reapply energy control measures in accordance with machine procedures and continue the servicing and/or maintenance.

I. Non-Company Personnel (contractors, etc.)

- a) Whenever outside servicing personnel are to be engaged in activities covered by the scope and application of this instruction Alexander County and the outside employer shall inform each other of their respective lockout or tag-out procedures.
- b) Alexander County shall ensure that his/her employees understand and comply with the restrictions and prohibitions of the outside employer's energy control program.

J. Group Lockout or Tag-out

- a) When servicing and/or maintenance is performed by a crew, craft, department or other group, they shall utilize a procedure which affords the employees a level of protection

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equivalent to that provided by the implementation of a personal lockout or tag-out device.

- b) Group lockout or tag-out devices shall be used in accordance with the procedures required by this instruction governing individual procedures which shall include, but not necessarily limited to, the following specific requirements:
1. Primary responsibility will be vested in an authorized employee for a set number of employees working under the protection of a group lockout or tag-out device (such as an operations lock).
 2. Provision for the authorized employee to ascertain the exposure status of individual group members with regard to the lockout or tag-out of the machine or equipment will be made.
 3. When more than one crew, craft, department, etc. is involved, assignment of overall job-associated lockout or tag-out control responsibility will be vested to an authorized employee designated to coordinate affected work forces and ensure continuity of protection.
 4. Each authorized employee shall affix a personal lockout or tag-out device to the group lockout device, group lockbox, or comparable mechanism when individual begins work, and shall remove those devices when individual stops working on the machine or equipment being serviced or maintained.

K. Personnel Changes

Specific procedures shall be utilized during shift or personnel changes to ensure the continuity of lockout or tag-out protection, including provision for the orderly transfer of lockout or tag-out device protection between off-going and oncoming employees, to minimize exposure to hazards from the unexpected energization or start-up of the machine or equipment, or the release of stored energy.

L. Definitions Applicable to this Instruction

Affected employee - An employee whose job requires him/her to operate or use a machine or equipment on which servicing or maintenance is being performed under lockout or tag-out, or whose job requires him/her to work in an area in which such servicing or maintenance is being performed.

Authorized employee - A person who locks out or tags out machines or equipment in order to perform servicing or maintenance on that machine or equipment. An affected employee becomes an authorized employee when that employee's duties include performing servicing or maintenance covered under this section.

Capable of being locked out - An energy-isolating device is capable of being locked out if it has a hasp or other means of attachment to which, or through which, a lock can be affixed, or it has a locking mechanism built into it. Other energy isolating devices are capable of

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being locked out, if lockout can be achieved without the need to dismantle, rebuild, or replace the energy-isolating device or permanently alter its energy control capability.

Energized - Connected to an energy source or containing residual or stored energy.

Energy isolating device - A mechanical device that physically prevents the transmission or release of energy, including but not limited to the following:

1. A manually operated electrical circuit breaker.
2. A disconnect switch.
3. A manually operated switch by which the conductors of a circuit can be disconnected from all ungrounded supply conductors, and, in addition, no pole can be operated independently.
4. A line valve; a block; and any similar device used to block or isolate energy.
5. Push buttons, selector switches and other control circuit type devices are not energy isolating devices.

Energy source - Any source of electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, or other energy.

Hot tap - A procedure used in the repair, maintenance and services activities, which involves welding on a piece of equipment (pipelines, vessels or tanks) under pressure, in order to install connections or appurtenances. It is commonly used to replace or add sections of pipeline without the interruption of service for air, gas, water, steam, and petrochemical distribution systems.

Lockout - The placement of a lockout device on an energy-isolating device, in accordance with an established procedure, ensures that the energy isolating device and the equipment being controlled cannot be operated until the lockout device is removed.

Lockout device - A device that utilizes a positive means such as a lock, either key or combination type, to hold an energy isolating device in a safe position and prevent the energizing of a machine or equipment. Included are blank flanges and bolted slip blinds.

Normal production operations - The utilization of a machine or equipment to perform its intended production function.

Servicing and/or maintenance - Workplace activities such as constructing, installing, setting up, adjusting, inspecting, modifying, and maintaining and/or servicing machines or equipment. These activities include lubrication, cleaning or un-jamming of machines or equipment and making adjustments or tool changes, where the employee may be exposed to the unexpected energization or startup of the equipment or release of hazardous energy.

Setting up - Any work performed to prepare a machine or equipment to perform its normal production operation.

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Tag-out - The placement of a tag-out device on an energy isolating device, in accordance with an established procedure, to indicate that the energy isolating device and the equipment being controlled may not be operated until the tag-out device is removed.

Tag-out device - A prominent warning device, such as a tag and a means of attachment, which can be securely fastened to an energy isolating device in accordance with an established procedure, to indicate that the energy isolating device and the equipment being controlled may not be operated until the tag-out device is removed.