The Hazards of Loose Clothing, Gloves, Long Hair, and Jewellery

Whether you’re making food products, furniture, sheet metal, or anything else, if you work in the manufacturing industry you will be exposed to the hazards of machinery or equipment with moving parts. Loose clothing, gloves, jewellery, and long hair can get caught in moving parts and cause serious injury or death.

In the five years between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2010, 350 workers were injured when their clothing, gloves, jewellery, or hair was caught by moving equipment or machinery parts. Fifty-six of these workers received fractures and another 67 of them had to have their fingers or limbs amputated. Here are some examples of the serious injuries that can happen:

- A worker was cleaning a conveyor belt when the belt caught his sleeve. His finger was fractured.
- A worker was trimming wood on a trim saw when the guarded saw caught his glove. Three of his fingers were cut and had to be partly amputated.
- A worker had her hair caught in a single-spindle automatic screw machine and suffered serious upper body injuries.
- A worker was inspecting the cutter-head tool attachment on a milling machine when he accidentally activated the power lever. The attachment caught the worker’s ring and pulled his finger off his hand.

Dressing safely and appropriately for your job will reduce your risk of injury.

Safe work practices

**Clothing**
- Wear close-fitting clothing.
- Tuck your shirt into your pants.
- If you must wear a long-sleeved shirt to meet health and safety requirements, make sure to button any cuffs it has. If long-sleeved shirts are not required, wear short-sleeved shirts. They are less likely to get caught by moving parts.

**Gloves**
- Do not wear gloves when working near rotating shafts or other moving machinery parts.
- If you must wear gloves for health and safety reasons, make sure your supervisor or safety representative has identified them as suitable for your task.
Jewellery
• Do not wear jewellery at work.
• If you wear a medical alert bracelet, secure it by wearing a transparent surgical or adhesive band that holds the bracelet snugly to your skin.

Long Hair
• Wear long hair in a bun, tie it back, or cover it with a cap or hairnet.
• If you are not sure your hairstyle is safe for your particular work area, check with your supervisor or safety representative.
• Keep facial hair short so it won't be caught by moving machinery parts. Cover long facial hair with a net or use clips or elastic bands to keep it securely away from moving machinery or equipment parts.

Safeguarding
• Always use the available safeguards. If the equipment you work on or around isn't properly safeguarded, talk to your supervisor or employer.

For more information…
See Sections 8.10 (Personal clothing and accessories) and 12.2 (Safeguarding requirement) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.