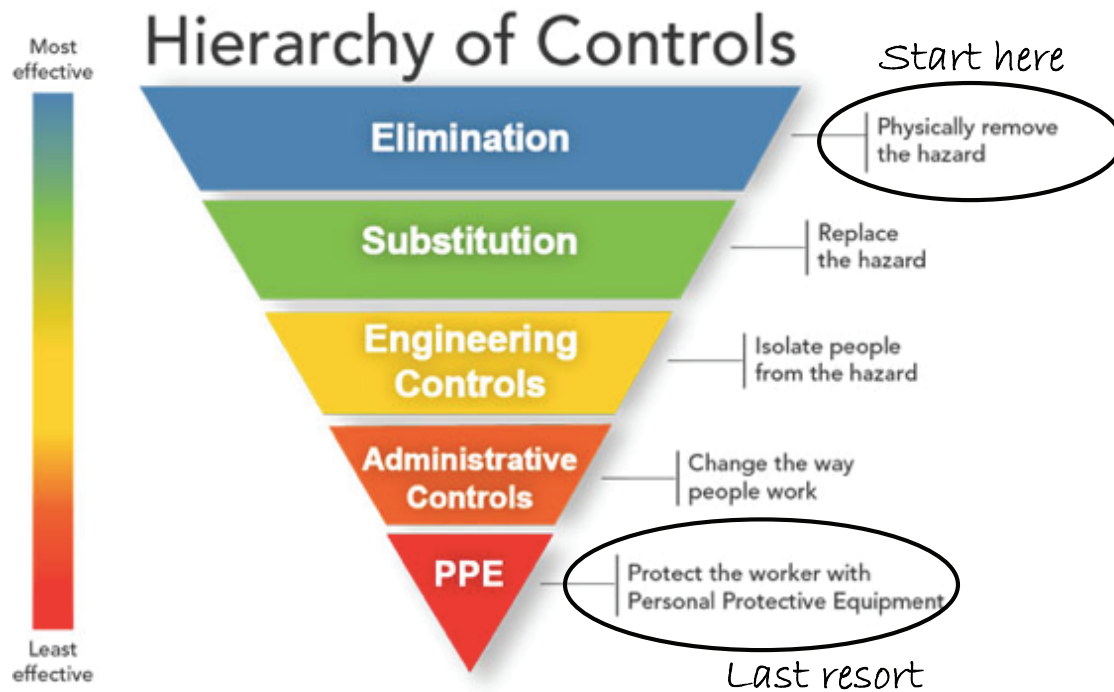


Tip Sheet

Workplace Safety and Health

Employers in the United States are required to furnish a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that could cause death or serious physical harm. While farming operations that employ ten or fewer non-family employees, and that have not maintained a temporary labor camp within the past year are exempt from programmed Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) programmed inspection, value-added product operations are not exempt from VOSHA inspection. Regardless of your business type or location, good safety practices will help your business thrive.

Controlling hazards and promoting human health at the workplace revolves around the Hierarchy of Controls, below. The easiest and best ways to control a hazard are to eliminate it from the workplace or substitute the hazard for a less hazardous process. Engineering controls, such as machine guarding, prevent workers from coming into contact with a hazard, are next most preferred. Administrative controls, including rotating job tasks so employees are not performing the same task for an entire shift, and personal protective equipment (PPE), are the least effective and should be paired with other, more effective strategies to control employee exposure to workplace hazards.



NIOSH, 2016

BRINGING WORKPLACE SAFETY TO YOUR BUSINESS

Conduct a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) at your value-added dairy establishment

Conduct a job hazard analysis to determine whether hazards exist within certain processes or tasks. Hazards could include moving components of machinery or tools that are not guarded, hazardous chemicals or products, or damaged, electrically powered equipment.

Tip Sheet

Workplace Safety and Health

Sample of potentially mandated programs applicable to value-added dairy establishments

Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) - Employers with hazardous chemicals/products in their workplaces must have labels and safety data sheets (SDS) for their exposed workers, and train them to handle the chemicals appropriately.

Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) - The unexpected startup or release of stored energy during the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment can seriously injure or kill workers. Employers who service equipment beyond cord-and-plug powered devices are required to develop energy control procedures, provide locks and tags to isolate hazardous energy, train affected employees, and evaluate the energy control procedures annually.

PPE Assessment – Employers are required to determine and document whether certain processes require the use of PPE to protect employees from workplace hazards. Such PPE could include safety glasses, face shields, gloves of any sort, or specialty footwear. If you handle hazardous chemicals/products, that products' SDS will list PPE necessary.

If you have any further questions regarding workplace safety and health please contact **Project WorkSAFE** at 1-888-SAFE-YES (1-888-723-3937). We provide free and confidential workplace safety and health consultations for Vermont employers. We are also available to answer any questions you may have involving occupational safety and health.