



Preventing defeat by protective devices easy to use

Problem:

Where the user has to handle protective equipment because it is to be installed, interchanged, or put into protective position prior to using a machine, its acceptance is a function of "comfort", with the acceptance decreasing with the growing number of actuations and the time this takes.

Measures:

Protective equipment must be easy to use. Automatic or at least semi-automatic closing of guards is preferable to manual handling. Fixing elements of guards such as e.g. screws which are to hold the guard safely in its position must be quick and reliably to detach and to reattach (no fine thread, only as long as necessary, where possible, choose bolt locks). Interlocking devices of movable guards with electromechanical guard locking are preferable to guards with manual actuation, as the latter ones require "holding time" even if the machine has not been in use before.

Example: Fork lift driver restraint system

The Hamburg based STILL GmbH has developed a new restraint system called "netProtect" for fork lift trucks. This safety device offers a whole series of advantages: The perturbing fastening and opening the seat belt when getting on and off the fork lift truck is no longer necessary. Despite the device, the driver has maximum space to move. The device can be closed and opened by touching a sensor adjacent to the display. These advantages have led to a high acceptance with the drivers.

<http://www.still.de/9231.0.43.html>

Read some English text here:

<http://www.still.de/netprotect-sicherheit.0.30.html>

