

Overhead doors – clarification of Minnesota Rules 5205.0675, subpart 2

The purpose of this notice is to clarify Minnesota Rules 5205.0675, subpart 2, regarding protection from overhead doors. The wording of the rule does not clearly reflect the way Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) determines if an overhead door complies. MNOSHA will accept overhead doors incorporating any of the three following safety features.

1. **A constant pressure actuation switch** – this must be operated in sight of the door so that it could be released and manually reversed if an obstruction was hit.
2. **Installation of a reversing edge switch** – this would allow an automatic closing control out of sight of the door, but would immediately reverse the direction of the door upon striking an obstruction. An acceptable variation of this option includes photoelectric cells (similarly used in residential applications) that automatically reverse the door when the light beam between the two cells is broken or obstructed.
3. **A three-button control switch** – if the following conditions are also met:
 - a. It is provided with a permanent placard adjacent to the switch with the following warning letters at least one-quarter-inch high:

**– WARNING –
TO PREVENT ENTRAPMENT,
DO NOT START DOOR DOWNWARD
UNLESS DOORWAY IS CLEAR.**

- b. The control station and placard are located within sight of the doorway.
- c. Automatic closing controls are not also installed.
- d. The operator must remain at the control station and observe the door until the door is fully closed.

As you can see, MNOSHA requires the controls to be attended in cases where the door does not automatically reverse. MNOSHA feels the combined engineering and administrative controls will be effective in preventing workplace injuries from overhead doors.

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