

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3244
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 353-2220



OCT 12 2004

Mr. Bobby Gilbert
Die Cutters, Inc.
306 S. Chestnut St.
P.O. Box 1686
Centralia, IL 62801

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

I am in receipt of your letter and video tape that was mailed to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Fairview Heights, Illinois District Office. Your letter was forwarded to OSHA's Chicago Regional Office for further review. We received your letter on October 4, 2004. In your letter you were asking for an official determination of the safety aspects of a die cutting machine that you manufacture.

As you know, OSHA does not approve or endorse products. The variable conditions at jobsites and possible alterations and misapplication of an otherwise safe product could easily create a hazardous condition beyond the control of the manufacturer. However, we have reviewed the video tape enclosed with your letter and it appears that the die cutting machine depicted on the video tape if properly installed and used, would meet OSHA's requirements for machine guarding.

We hope that this adequately addresses your concerns regarding this matter. Please be aware that OSHA's enforcement guidance is subject to periodic review and clarification, amplification or correction and may be affected by subsequent rule making. You may also wish to consult the OSHA website at <http://www.osha.gov> for periodic updates and new information. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Nick Antonio of my staff at (312)886 6283.

Thank you for your interest in occupational safety and health.

Sincerely,


John M. Hermanson
Assistant Regional Administrator
Enforcement Programs