



Lockout/Tagout: Individual Lockout vs. Group Lockout

Locking out energy sources for machinery while it is being serviced by personnel is a very important part of industrial safety, and there are some differences between individual lockout and group lockout procedures. With individual lockout, each authorized employee puts their personal lockout device on each energy source before beginning work. The authorized employee removes the locks within the procedure when their job is complete. Group lockout involves a group of employees working on machinery that has multiple energy sources and many energy isolating devices. In group lockout, one person, usually a supervisor, is responsible for locking out all energy sources and assigning responsibilities to each employee working on the machinery. This person will then take all of the keys for the devices locking out the energy sources and drop them into a group lockout box like the one shown below:



Then, each worker will place their lock on the outside of the box to make sure that their machine cannot be started until they remove their lock from the box. Upon completion of the lockout task, each worker removes their lock from the outside of the box. The supervisor then unlocks the last lock and retrieves the

keys so he can unlock the power sources and allow energy to be restored to the machinery.

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