

The Emergency Stop.... Is it all its cracked up to be?

Intro

In this issue of machine safety news and views. 1st let me remind you that its **St. Paddy's Day** today...An old Irish saying "An E-Stop is like an ambulance at the bottom of cliff instead of fence at the top"

The trusty Emergency Stop is based on IEC 13850 since 2008 (it was IEC 418) there is also useful info in IEC 12100.

The important message I would like to make is contained in clause 4.1.2 of the E-Stop, Principles of Design. That is:

The E-Stop must not be a substitute for Safeguarding Measures and other safety functions.

Quite often the E-Stop is considered as the primary element in a safety system when in fact it is not. In fact clause 5.5.2 of the Technical Principles requires you to examine the need for an E-Stop following a risk assessment.

Remember, the effect of an E-Stop can be zoned, so also is controlled shut down (Category 1) allowed and energy may be retained for breaking or holding or clamping.

In summary the E-Stop must not be a like a sledge hammer to crack a nut

If you would like to discuss this or have a particular project in mind please contact me...details below.



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