

## Safety Q+A

The following answers are only provided as guidelines, based on the practices of most machine shops. Keep in mind, that any shop safety regulation only supplements - not replaces - any federal, state or provincial laws.

➔ Answers to questions:

1. The first rule of safety is to ***follow all safety rules.***
2. Loose closing, such as sleeves, some sweaters, open shirt, etc. Also, clothing that burns easily should not be worn (in case of a flying hot chip), and clothing that shows bare body, such as shorts (yes, even in hot weather).
3. Absolute minimum considerations when operating a CNC machine should be proper clothing (see answer 2), safety glasses and safety shoes. Safety hat may be required in some companies. Avoid any jewelry.
4. Notify the offending person first. In cases of repeated infractions, notify the safety inspector or the supervisor.
5. Be careful here, only a hair net and a cap are generally acceptable. Gloves can only be worn when working with non-rotating equipment or material (see answer 12).
6. Safety shoes with a steel toe, reaching above ankles.
7. Small tools that are necessary for setup or inspection, should never be inside of the machining area. Keep them on a bench next to the machine.
8. A running machine should never be left unattended. When you need to take a break, try to plan it well. Wait at least until the tool operation is complete. If that is not possible, see if somebody else (a qualified person) can take care in your absence.
9. First, you should find the cause of the leak and repair it. Then, clean all coolant from the floor, using special absorbent material. Never leave a coolant or oil spill unattended.
10. Never touch cutting chips with your bare hands. Even with work gloves, never remove the chips while the machine is rotating. Many CNC operators have a small 'home made' hook for this purpose. Often, it is best to let the chips accumulate during the machine operation. Use a chip conveyor to remove most chips from the machining area.
11. Generally, the CNC operator may do some part inspection, a secondary operation on the finished parts (for example, deburring), run another machine, if it is within the same work area, get the next part ready, and so on. Reading books, magazines or newspapers should not be allowed. Listening to a radio or CD may be allowed in some shops, but high noise may distract other people.
12. See answer 5 - never touch a rotating material, machine, or other equipment while it is in operation (rotating).
13. The purpose of such light is to visually announce the end of machining cycle. The CNC operator should never handle anything inside of the machining area, until this light has turned on.