Sweep Auger Safety

What can we do?

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OSHA Rule

OSHA states that an employee cannot work inside a bin while an unguarded sweep auger is in operation.
OSHA does not define what is meant by guarded or unguarded.
How can we guard the sweep auger to protect employees while in a grain bin with the sweep auger in operation?
An example of guarding.

Many companies are coming up with great ideas.
Another great example of guarding.
The Metal Stamping industry uses electronic means to safeguard employees.
Terms used within that industry:

Safeguarding device – a device used to protect the operator from point of operation.

Holdouts – A device that does not allow the press operator to enter the point of operation at any time.

Barrier guard – A type of safeguarding device that forbids entry into the point of operation.

Foot switch – An operator control that requires press operators to insert their foot into a guard, and press a button in order to operate the press.

E-stop – Another name for the red stop button. “E-stop” is short for “Emergency Stop”.
SASH

Sweep Auger Safety Handle

“an electronic means of guarding a sweep auger”
This concept allows the employee to operate the Sweep auger from a safe distance.
The employee can push the sweep auger to increase the flow of grain or pull it back if the sweep auger starts to choke or plug.
An electronic switch is wired to a pull up bar.
When engaged, the sweep auger starts just as a push lawn mower or roto tiller we use at home.
As long as the bar is engaged, the sweep auger continues to run.
As soon as the bar is released or disengaged, the sweep auger stops.
additional Safety feature...

an “E-stop” or Emergency Stop Button is interfaced into the Sweep Auger Safety Handle (SASH) that allows the attendant to stop the sweep auger if necessary.
The Emergency Stop Button and Sweep Auger Safety Handle (SASH) is easily moved from bin to bin.
Does the Sweep Auger Safety Handle (SASH) meet the following?....

...a Safeguarding device.....protecting the operator from the point of operation?

...a Holdout.....not allowing the operator to enter the point of operation?

...a Barrier guard.....forbids entry into the point of operation?
YES!
It Sure Does!
Thank you

Questions