

Indoff

Protective Guard Rail:

What It Is & Why You Need It



Guard rail is one of those components in a facility that typically is not top-of-mind with companies until it's too late. Soft federal guidelines for its use have helped contribute to its low awareness within facilities and have placed the responsibilities on individual companies to implement. However, when used properly, it can effectively protect equipment, assets and personnel in and around a facility. The key is to identify areas in need of guard rail, correctly specify it for the application and take action.

WHY GUARD RAIL?

While an industrial guard rail protects machinery and provides a safe and efficient work environment, its most important role is protecting people. Forklifts, Tugger AGVs and other material handling vehicles are commonplace in manufacturing facilities and often operate near employees.



DIFFERENCES IN GUARD RAIL

Although it may look similar in appearance, not all guard rails are manufactured the same. Many manufacturers build their guarding products to have impact ratings of 10,000 pounds at 4 mph. An average forklift with a load generally weighs between 8,000 to 10,000 pounds. A guard rail with a 10,000-pound impact rating means it should prevent a forklift from driving through it at a speed of 4 mph or less.



CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

A manufacturer can design and build the best guard rail in the world, but what good does it serve if it is not being used (as is often the case)? A guard rail is mistakenly viewed as a commodity item that people historically do not think much about for their facility. They have never had personnel injured or equipment damaged because of a vehicle accident, and so this protective equipment is not given too much thought. Of course, once an accident occurs, facility managers quickly see the value that it can provide.



There's a lot you need to consider when it comes to guard rails, so contact your local Indoff Material Handling Sales Representative to find out more about all the options available as well as the thousands of other products they can supply.

Brian Galloway

brian.galloway@indoff.com

828-483-6402

Visit Our Website