A Guide to Locking Out a Truck Mixer
Developed by the NRMCA Committee on Operations and Equipment Maintenance Safety Task Group

Introduction
Whenever Machines or equipment are used in industry, there are hazards not only to the employees who work with the machines or equipment, but also other people who work in who are near the immediate area. Also, when it is necessary to perform maintenance or servicing on machinery, these activities can be hazardous if the machinery can be activated during servicing. According to OSHA, nearly 10 percent of the serious accidents in industry are due to failure of energy control in these situations.

The lockout/tagout standard was designed to prevent personal injury and property damage caused by starting up a machine or piece of equipment while it is being worked on or repaired. It is impossible for OSHA to provide specific standards for every piece of equipment or machinery. The regulations provide guidelines and a set of goals, which will result in safe machinery or equipment service.

It is up to the company to develop a specific lockout/tagout policy and specific procedures for each piece of equipment. Employees must also be trained on the lockout/tagout policy for each specific piece of equipment they may work on or near.

Generally, each piece of equipment must be “locked out” or made incapable for starting up while servicing. The purpose of the lockout is to prevent the machine or equipment from being energized, or turned on. Depending on the machine or equipment, this requires a lock on a switch or starting device, as well as disconnecting a battery or energy source if possible. The equipment must be “tagged” out of service, so other employees know the equipment is being services. Some equipment cannot be locked out, so tagging the equipment out of service may be the only method of complying with the OSHA standard.

The CDP must be familiar with the company lockout/tagout policy for truck mixers, since the CDP will usually work on them to perform various tasks. This particularly applies to drum cleaning and chipping operations. No one can enter the mixer drum to clean or repair it without the truck mixer being properly locked out. The CDP must also be familiar with the lockout/tagout procedure for any other equipment they may operate or help maintain.

Lockout/Tagout Procedures
These general guidelines are presented to member companies of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. These guidelines, when developed into a written program and customized to fit your company’s equipment, will comprise a portion of your lockout/tagout program. The federal rules are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910 Section 147 (29CFR 19:10.147) published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

In addition to the written guidelines, your company will have to provide safety training on these procedures to “authorized” persons (those employees actually working on the locked out unit) and “affected” persons (nearly everyone else in the plant or shop). Employees must be retrained for new equipment, new procedures or when periodic inspections turn up people who are not properly executing the lockout procedures. The periodic inspection requirements mandate another (outside) supervisor checking that all procedures are adhered to and done safely.
Guideline

1.0 Begin lockout, Notify affected person(s),
  1.1 Park truck in appropriate area and set brakes. Chock the wheels. Place “Out of Service” placard on vehicle.
  1.2 Isolate energy sources
    1.2.1 Remove ignition key and keep in pocket
    1.2.2 Disconnect batteries
    1.2.3 Relieve air for air starting system
    1.2.4 Other methods as necessary for type of truck
  1.3 Lock or tag all mixer controls
  1.4 Secure drum to prevent rotation
  1.5 Verify that energy source(s) is (are) disabled
  1.6 Open access doors (hatch) to drum
  1.7 Place ventilating fan at charge hopper
  1.8 Assemble personal protective equipment – hardhat, respirator, goggles, hearing protection, safety shoes, long sleeve shirt (coveralls), gloves, and other equipment as necessary.
  1.9 Assemble necessary tools and equipment

2.0 Complete job
  2.1 If drum must be repositioned, and lockout condition interrupted, clear the area, energize the vehicle, rotate drum and go back to 1.2

3.0 Inspect drum, remove tools and supplies

4.0 Check for other employees

5.0 Remove drum securing devices
  5.1 Remove locks/tags/placards

6.0 Notify appropriate persons vehicle returned to service