



VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 02-223

ISSUED: August 15, 1995

SUBJECT: Abrasive Operations Using Cutoff Wheels and Masonry Saws,
§§1910.215, 1926.303 and 1926.702(i)

A. Purpose.

This directive transmits to field personnel guidelines for violations related to guards for cutoff wheels and masonry saws.

This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.

B. Scope.

This directive applies to all VOSH personnel.

C. Reference.

OSHA Instruction STD 1-12.2A (September 26, 1994).

D. Cancellation.

Not Applicable.

E. Action.

The Deputy Commissioner, directors and supervisors shall assure that field personnel and employers understand and comply with these guidelines.

F. Effective Date.

August 15, 1995.

G. Expiration Date.

Not Applicable.

H. Background.

Cutoff machines, using abrasive wheels, permit a maximum angular exposure of 180 degrees (ANSI B7.1-88). Where violations exist, they should be cited under §1910.215, abrasive wheel machinery.

The existing OSHA regulation, adopted from ANSI B.4.1-1970, allows for 150-degree maximum angular exposure on cutoff machines. OSHA, however, lacks information to support a choice between 150 degrees and 180 degrees maximum angular exposure, or to substantiate any direct and immediate relationship of such a choice to safety and health.

I. Guidelines.

When the guard for a cutoff wheel (not masonry) fails to comply with the 150-degree maximum angular exposure required at §1910.215(b)(5) or §1926.303(d), but does not allow greater than 180-degree maximum angular exposure, the violation shall be treated as de minimis.

For construction, §§1926.303 and 1926.702(i) allow an 180-degree angle of the blade (wheel) exposure for masonry saws, such as diamond or tungsten carbide type (water cooled). When the guard for a masonry saw used (i.e., used to cut tile, brick, concrete block, but not steel) or a tungsten or diamond blade (water cooled) is semicircular, it is in compliance as set forth in 1926.702(i).

Theron J. Bell
Commissioner

Attachment: None.

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