

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Division of Labor
Office of Occupational Safety and Health
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

OSH Program Directive Number 81-1910.143/1926.304-2/2

Subject: Portable Belt Sanding Machines as Covered by Subarticle 6, Section 1910.243 (a) (3) and Subarticle 7, Section 1926.303 (f).

Standard: Subarticle 6, Section 1910.243 (a) (3) and Subarticle 7, Section 1926.303 (f), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.243 (a) (3) and 1926.303 (f).

Background: Revision of federal standards 29 CFR 1910.243 (a) (3) and 29 CFR 1926.304 (f) are under consideration by the federal OSHA Mechanical Engineering and Construction Standards Divisions. The standards presently in effect prescribe guarding requirements which essentially prevent flush sanding at corners, an important feature and an application of portable belt sanders. The modified form of guarding, as presented by this instruction, permits flushing sanding at corners and provides for operator safety.

Interpretation: The Assistant Director/OSH Compliance, OSH Supervisors and OSH Field Personnel shall classify violations of Subarticle 6, Section 1910.243 (a) (3) and Subarticle 7, Section 1926.304 (f) as de minimis violations where the employer has complied with appropriate safeguarding precautions as follows:

- a. Portable belt sanding machines shall be provided with guarding on one side at the nip point where the sanding belt runs into a pulley,
- b. Handles shall be so located that a barrier interrupts any straight line path between the gripping surface of a handle and the nip point of a pulley, and
- c. The unused run of the sanding belt shall be guarded on one side and at the rear.

Effective Date: This directive is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Regulation or Program Directive.

William M. Lybrand, Director
September 11, 1981