

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 80-1910.212-1 (REVISED)

Subject: Article VI, Section 1910.212 As Related to Guarding of Meat Cutting Saws.

Standard: Article VI, Section 1910.212 (a) (3) (ii), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.212 (a) (3) (ii).

Background: This directive clarifies specific details for guarding requirements for meat saws, in order to eliminate any confusion pertaining to such guarding.

This directive replaces OSH Program Directive number 73-1910.212-1 (formerly Interpretative Bulletin #73-9-3).

Interpretation: A circular meat cutting saw shall be guarded in one of the following ways:

- a. A suspended counter balanced circular meat cutting saw that requires two-handed operation shall be deemed adequately guarded, if provided with a guard that covers at least 25 degrees of the circumference of the blade and it conforms to the requirements in d. below.
- b. A suspended counter balanced circular meat cutting saw that requires only one-handed operation shall be deemed adequately guarded, if provided with a guard that covers at least 90 degrees of the circumference of the blade and it conforms to the requirements in d. below.
- c. A nonsuspended circular meat saw, either one-handed or two-handed operation, shall be deemed adequately guarded if provided with a guard that covers at least 120 degrees of the circumference of the blade and it conforms with the requirements in d. below.
- d. All circular meat cutting saws shall conform to the following:
 1. A “dead man” control(s) shall be required.

2. The guard protecting the operator from contact with the blade shall be located between the operator and the blade.
3. The maximum number of degrees of circumferential guarding of the blade shall be provided based on specific applications in meat cutting operations.
4. A brake that automatically activates upon release of the operating control(s) is recommended.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Rules and Regulations.

William M. Lybrand, Director
August 1, 1980