

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 75-1910.212-5

Subject: Applicability of Article VI, Section 1910.212 to Chain 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: Inquiries have been made to the application of Federal Standard 29 CFR 1910.212 to chain saws. The source of this OSHA standard is Federal Standard 41 CFR 50-204.5. The intent is that Part 50-204.5, Machine Guarding, shall apply to all machines. This is specifically brought out in section 50-204.5 (c) (4) which lists some of the machines, including portable power tools, that usually require point of operation guarding. Since no OSHA standard other than section 1910.212 applies to the guarding of chain saws, the general industry standard 1910.212 shall apply. The intent is to clarify the use of section 1910.212 as applied to chain saws, particularly blade guards for chain saws.

Interpretation:

- a. When the use of a chain saw blade guard would prevent the employee from performing the particular work function assigned or would offer a more serious hazard than that associated with an unguarded chain saw blade, a chain saw blade guard would not be required. The omission of a chain saw blade guard under these conditions would not be a violation of Article VI, Section 1910.212 (a) (3) (ii).
- b. In intended uses when it would be feasible to have the chain saw blade guarded (a one direction movement of the saw with no other obstructions to the guard), a chain saw blade guard would be required.
- c. This interpretation does not exempt the use of personal protective equipment or the application of other relevant standards.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Regulation or program directive.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
October 30, 1975