

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 85-1910.212-13**

**Subject:** Subarticle 6, Section 1910.212 (a) (1), Machine Guarding for All Machines; As Applied to Circular Saws Used in the Poultry Industry.

**Standard:** Subarticle 6, Section 1910.212 (a) (1), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

**Cross Reference to Federal Standards:** 29 CFR 1910.212 (a) (1).

**Background:** This directive clarifies specific detail for guarding requirements for circular saws used for cutting poultry in order to eliminate any confusion pertaining to such guarding.

**Interpretation:** The following two methods of guarding stationary circular poultry saws are acceptable:

- a. The circular saw blade must be provided with a stationary metal guard that covers at least 180 degrees of the circumference of the blade; that is the guard must cover the top half of the circular saw blade down to both sides of the rotating shaft; (See attached sketch #1) or
- b. The circular saw blade must be provided with a stationary metal guard, that normally covers the majority of the top portion of the blade, and in addition, be provided with a front hinged metal guard that covers the majority of the top portion of the blade, and in addition, be provided with a front hinged metal guard that covers at least the remaining portion of the top of the blade down to each side of the rotating shaft and nut. The front hinged guard may extend below the shaft line. (See attached sketch #2)

Due to the dangers associated with circular poultry saws, it is highly recommended that safety training be given to all employees that operate these saws. Such training should consist of, but not be limited to:

- a. Recognition of hazards associated with use of saws
- b. Recognition of hazards associated with wet floors

c. Proper grounding of electrically powered saws

**Effective Date:** This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Rules and Regulations.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  
April 1, 1985