

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 75-1910.215-1

Subject: Work Rests – Abrasive Wheel Machinery.

Standard: Article VI, Section 1910.215 (a) (4), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.215 (a) (4).

Background:

- a. There have been several federal variance requests and inquiries received concerning the use of work rests on off-hand grinding machines. A problem exists when, due to size, shape, weight and finishing areas of workpieces, interferes with the work rest or contacts with the wheel below the horizontal plane of the spindle are unavoidable.
- b. The stated purpose of a work rest, properly adjusted to within one-eighth inch of the wheel, is to prevent the workpiece from being jammed thereby causing wheel breakage which could result in injury to the operator. In those instances, where due to the size of the workpiece, jamming is precluded, the enclosure (side guard) itself may provide protection.
- c. The need for stabilizing the workpieces when grinding tools such as bits, chisels, drill bits, etc., is clear.

Interpretation: In those instances where jamming or contact with a grinding wheel is precluded by the size of the workpiece, a side guard offers sufficient protection to the operator. Accordingly, in such situations, the failure to have a work rest shall be cited as de minimis. It is not the intent of this clarification to minimize the use of work rests when required to protect the operator of a wheel grinder from injury.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Regulation or Program Directive.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