

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 94-1910.215/1926.303/702-4/1/1**

**Subject:** Abrasive Operations Using Cutoff Wheels and Masonry Saws

**Standard:** Sutarticle 6, § 1910.215, § 1926.303, § 1926.702 (i), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

**Cross Reference to Federal Standards:** 29 CFR 1910.215, 1926.303, 1926.702 (i).

**Cancellation:** Existing Program Directive Numbers 77-1910.215/1926.700-2/2 dated March 25, 1977 and 81-1910.215-3 dated August 20, 1981, are cancelled.

**Background:**

- (1) Cutoff machines utilize abrasive wheels and should be cited under 29 CFR 1910.215, abrasive wheel machinery. The source standard, ANSI B7.1-1970, addresses cutoff wheels. The American National Standards Institute has issued revised ANSI B7.1 standards dated 1978 and 1988. Both the ANSI B7.1-1978 and the current standard, ANSI B7.1-1988, permit a maximum angular exposure of 180°.
- (2) The existing OSHA regulation was adopted from the ANSI B.7.1-1970, and therefore allows 150° maximum angular exposure on cutoff machines. However, OSHA has no information to support a choice between 150° and 180° maximum angular exposure, or to substantiate any direct and immediate relationship of such a choice to safety and health. Therefore, cutoff machines that are not used in construction (i.e. masonry saws) with more than 150° of angular exposure, and not exceeding 180°, shall be treated as de minimis violations.
- (3) For construction, the existing OSHA regulations, 29 CFR 1926.303 and .702 (i), allow a 180° angle of exposure for masonry saws such as diamond or tungsten carbide type (water cooled), and the 180° angle of exposure shall not be treated as a violation when a masonry saw that is used in construction has 180° of the blade (wheel) exposed.

**Interpretation:**

- (1) When the guard for a cutoff wheel (not masonry) fails to comply with the 150° maximum angular exposure required at 29 CFR 1910.215 (b) (5) or 29 CFR 1926.303 (d), but does not allow greater than 180° maximum angular exposure, the violation shall be treated as de minimis.
- (2) When the guard for a masonry saw used in construction (i.e., used to cut tile, brick, concrete block, but not steel) or a tungsten or diamond blade (water cooled) is semicircular, it is in compliance as set forth in 1926.702 (i).

**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  
October 13, 1994