

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 94-1910.217-8 (REVISED)

Subject: Interpretations of Subarticle 6, § 1910.217 (b) (7) (iii), - 1910.217 (b) (8) (i), and 1910.217 (d) (9) (i) pertaining to Mechanical Power Presses.

Standard: Subarticle 6, § 1910.217 (b) (7) (iii), (b) (8) (i), and (d) (9) (i), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.217 (b) (7) (iii), (b) (8) (i), and (d) (9) (i).

Cancellation: Existing Program Directive 77-1910.217-8 dated February 11, 1977 is cancelled.

Background: The subject matters covered by these sections have caused confusion as to their meaning, and this program directive clarifies the interpretations of these sections.

Section 1910.217 (b) (7) (iii), pertaining only to mechanical power presses with part revolution clutches, states: "A means of selecting OFF, Inch, Single Stroke, and Continuous (when continuous function is furnished) shall be supplied with the clutch/brake control to select type of operation of the press. Fixing of selection shall be by means capable of supervision by the employer."

Section 1910.217 (b) (8) (I), pertaining to all mechanical power presses, states: "A main power disconnect switch capable of being locked only in the OFF position shall be provided with every power press control system."

Interpretation: The above sections are interpreted to mean and/or require the following:

Section 1910.217 (b) (8) (I) requires a key-operated selector switch capable of selecting the mode of operation desired on mechanical power presses using part revolution clutches, if they are capable of selecting the mode of operation. The key must be removed from the selector switch and kept in the possession of the employer or his authorized representative such as superintendent, supervisor,

foreman or lead man. A key-operated selector switch is the only means acceptable to meet all of the requirements of this paragraph.

Section 1910.217 (b) (8) (i) requires that a “main power disconnect switch” which may be either a safety switch or a circuit breaker capable of disconnecting the main power from the press and be capable of being locked only in the OFF position. Locking out of the control system only is not acceptable, such as providing a locking means on the stop button of the pushbutton control station. A logical assumption that can be made from the requirement for a main power disconnect switch is that the initial step in any diesetting procedure should be the locking out of the main power disconnect switch.

If a main power disconnect is not provided, the employer shall be cited for failure to comply with Section 1910.217 (b) (8) (i) only. If a main power disconnect is provided, but is not locked out during the diesetting procedure, the employer will be cited under (a) section 1910.147 (c) (1) if the employer has no energy control program, or (b) under Section 1910.147 (c) (4) (i) if the employer has an energy control program but is not utilizing such program; but the employer shall not be cited under both.

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

William M. Lybrand, Administrator
September 28, 1994