

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 80-1910.212-2 (REVISED)

Subject: Defining Acceptable Guarding of Fan Blades Under Article VI, Section 1910.212.

Standard: Article VI, Section 1910.212 (a) (5), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.212 (a) (5).

Background: This directive clarifies acceptable guarding methods required for blades of fans within seven (7) feet of floor or working level.

This directive replaces OSH Program Directive number 73-1910.212-2 (formerly Interpretative Bulletin #73-9-6).

Interpretation: Section 1910.212 (a) (5) means that all fans within 7 feet of the floor or working level must be guarded. The guard must not have openings greater than one-half inch in width. The use of concentric rings with spacing between them not exceeding a one-half inch are acceptable provided that sufficient radial spokes and firm mountings are used to make the guard rigid enough to prevent it from being pushed into the fan blade during normal use. The use of nylon mesh or similar materials with holes not exceeding one-half inch, to modify a substandard guard on an existing fan is acceptable, provided the combination of the two provides adequate protection so that the mesh cannot be pushed into the fan blade during normal use.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Rules and Regulations.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
August 1, 1980