

## OSH INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 81-X-56

TO: All OSH Directors, Supervisors and Compliance Personnel

FROM: William M. Lybrand, Director of OSH

SUBJECT: De Minimis Citations for Meat Saws in Grocery Stores Under Subarticle 6, Section 1910.212(a)(1)

DATE: December 14, 1981

### PURPOSE

This memorandum explains the policy of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) on meat saws manufactured for and used exclusively for cutting meat, such as those manufactured by the Hobart Corporation.

### BACKGROUND

In the past, the Division of OSH has cited under Subarticle 6, Section 1910.212(a)(1) for meat saw blades not being guarded to the upper portion of the product being cut. It has been brought to our attention by grocery store employers that meat saws manufactured prior to June, 1981, would not allow the blade guide (guard) to be lowered all the way to the table. There are still some meat saws manufactured which allow the blade guide (guard) to be lowered only to within 2 ½ inches of the stationary table. Prior to January, 1977, most meat saws allowed the blade guide (guard) to come down only to the top of the gauge plate.

The Hobart Corporation was contacted and they relate that it is infeasible, if not impossible, to modify the older meat saws so that the blade guide (guard) will extend to the table. These meat saws are normally provided with a pusher plate, thus eliminating the necessity of handling products close to the blade. Also some meat saws are equipped with a moveable carriage table which assists the operator in moving the product to the blade, again eliminating the necessity of the employee using his own hands.

### INTERPRETATION

Because of the impracticability of modifying older meat saws so that the blade guide (guard) will extend to the table and the safety features offered by the pusher plate and the moveable carriage table, blade guides (guards) extending only to the top of the gauge plates on meat saws manufactured prior to June 1981, shall be cited as de minimis under Section 1910.212(a)(1).

EFFECTIVE DATE

This memorandum is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superceded.