

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-31
Issued January 1, 1979
Revised March 21, 2001

SUBJECT: Guarding: Cut-Off Wheels and Masonry Saws

**AFFECTED CODES/
DIRECTIVES:** 437-03-1926.303 and 1926.702(i)

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for violation related to guards for cutoff wheels and masonry saws.

BACKGROUND:

A. Cut-off machines use abrasive wheels and should be cited under 437-02-1910.215, Abrasive Wheel Machinery. The source standard, ANSI B7.1-1970, addresses cut-off wheels. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has issued revised ANSI B7.1 standards dated 1978 and 1988.

Both the ANSI B7.1-1978 and the current standard, ANSI B.7.1-1988, permit a maximum angular exposure of 180 degrees.

B. The existing OSHA regulation was adopted from the ANSI B7.1-1970, and therefore allows 150 degrees maximum angular exposure on cut-off machines. However, OSHA has no information to support a choice between 150 degrees and 180 degrees maximum angular exposure, or to substantiate any direct and immediate relationship of such a choice to safety and health. Therefore, cut-off machines that are not used in construction (i.e., masonry saws) with more than 150 degrees of angular exposure, and not exceeding 180 degrees, shall be treated as de minimis violations.

C. For construction, the existing OSHA regulations, 437-03-1926.303 and 1926.702(i), allow a 180 degree angle of exposure for masonry saws such as diamond or tungsten carbide type (water cooled), and the 180 degree angle of exposure shall not be treated as a violation when a masonry saw that is used in construction has 180 degrees of the blade (wheel) exposed.

ACTION:

- A. When the guard for a cut-off wheel (not masonry) fails to comply with the 150 degrees maximum angular exposure required at 437-02-1910.215(b)(5) or 437-03-1926.303(d), but does not allow greater than 180 degrees maximum angular exposure, the violation shall be treated as de minimis.
- B. When the guard for a masonry saw used in construction (i.e., used to cut tile, brick, concrete block, but not steel) or tungsten or diamond blade (water cooled) is semicircular, it is in compliance as set forth in 437-03-1926.702(i).

EFFECTIVE

DATE:

This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.