

**OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive No. A-36
Issued January 1, 1979
Revised February 1, 2007
Reviewed February 1, 2007

SUBJECT: PPE: Hand Protection for Meat Cutters in Food Stores

AFFECTED CODES/

DIRECTIVES: 29CFR 1910.132 and 29CFR 1910.138

PURPOSE: The purpose of this directive is to clarify the application of the personal protective equipment standard 1910.132 and 1910.138 to the cutting hazards found in the meat departments of retail food stores.

BACKGROUND: A question has arisen as to the application of 1910.138(a) to the cutting hazard found in meat department operations in retail food markets. Retail meat cutters performing boning and breakdown work with knives are exposed to the hazard of cuts to their hands. The danger of cutting accidents associated with boning and breakdown is a result of the procedures used in this type of work and of the possibility that a knife may slip, e.g., a knife may slip from a bone and into a meat cutter's hand. In addition, 1910.132 for retail meat cutters performing breakdown work on hanging meat applies when employees are exposed to the hazard of cuts to the torso and legs.

After conducting on-site visits and after consulting employers and employee representatives of the retail food industry, we have concluded that personal protective equipment, such as wire mesh gloves and wire mesh or leather aprons, are required to protect retail meat cutters from cutting hazards in the circumstances described below.

ACTION: The following instructions shall apply with respect to the issuance of citation for violations of 1910.138 in the retail meat cutting industry. Personal protective equipment such as wire mesh gloves or equivalent protection must be provided, used, and properly maintained in retail food markets.

Such personal protective equipment must be worn by meat cutters performing boning or breakdown work with a knife. Retail meat cutters need not wear protective gloves where, while performing boning and breakdown work, they are exposed to job demands which would require frequent removal and replacement of the glove, such as job demands arising out of customer service requests. Mesh gloves must not be worn

by meat cutters exposed to moving parts when operating power equipment.

Personal protective equipment such as wire mesh aprons or equivalent protection shall be provided, used, and properly maintained in retail food markets in order to protect retail meatcutters engaged in breaking down hanging meat with a knife (see 1910.132). The employer is required to assure that the appropriate personal protective equipment is used by employees engaged in the above activities.

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:**

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