

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-172
Issued November 1, 1981
Revised June 4, 2001

SUBJECT: Guarding: Iron Workers and Mechanical Power Presses

**AFFECTED CODES/
DIRECTIVES:** OAR 437-02-1910.212 and 1910.217, Machinery and Machinery Guarding

PURPOSE: This instruction provides guidelines to aid in the recognition of the difference between iron workers and similarly configured mechanical power presses as they are used in industry. Proper identification will permit the correct application of standards.

BACKGROUND: Compliance officers have frequently confused the applicability of standards as they pertain to iron workers and certain configurations of mechanical power presses. In addition, field personnel have incorrectly attempted to enforce provisions of 1910.217 with regard to iron workers. 1910.212 is the appropriate standard to apply to ironworker machines.

- A. ANSI B11.5-1975, Safety Requirements for the Construction, Care, and Use of Iron Workers, deals specifically with ironworkers. Although this standard was not adopted by OSHA under section 6(b), it provides useful guidance in evaluating and correcting ironworker hazards.
- B. ANSI B11.5-1975 should be consulted when considering a citation under 1910.212 or when attempting to enforce a citation issued under that standard for exposure to a hazard on an ironworker machine.

- ACTION:**
- A. OSHA field offices shall use the guidelines set forth in B of this instruction for enforcement of 1910.212 and 1910.217.
 - B. **Guidelines.** For compliance purposes, OSHA field staff will assure that the requirements of 1910.212 and .217, with applicable sections, are applied as interpreted by this instruction.
 - 1. This instruction applies to those combination, multipurpose powered machines that punch, shear, notch, cope, and form

metals or other materials, commonly referred to as iron workers, and also applies to certain single-purpose powered machines, noted below.

- a. Specific machines to which 1910.212 shall apply include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Single-end punches
 - (2) Double-end punches
 - (3) Structural shearing machines
 - (4) Notching machines
 - (5) Coping machines
 - (6) Beam punches
 - (7) Detail punches
 - (8) Spacing punches
 - (9) Combinations of (1) through (8)
 - b. Machines similar, in construction and function to mechanical power presses, but which are identified by the respective machine manufacturers as iron workers, are regulated under 1910.212.
 - c. Machines whose most distinguishing feature is the multiple work stations at which various operations may be performed singly or simultaneously, including, but not limited to, punching, shearing, notching, coping, and forming, shall be evaluated as an iron worker, and are regulated under 1910.212.
2. Mechanically powered machines that shear, punch, form, or assemble metal or other material by means of tools or dies attached to slides, and identified by their respective manufacturers as mechanical power presses, are regulated under 1910.217.

EFFECTIVE

DATE:

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