



A Division of the
Department of Consumer
and Business Services

⚠ Hazard alert

Point of Operation Guarding on Jump Saws and Inverted Cut-Off Saws

Nationally, there are more than 700 fatalities per year from worker's caught in, on, or under unguarded machines and equipment. In Oregon, these unfortunate fatalities account for 13.5 percent of all work related deaths. When workers use machines to help them process material – to cut, shear, punch, bend, or drill – they are exposed to moving parts that could harm them. Much of the danger occurs at the point of operation, where the work is performed on the material itself. Machines that expose workers to injury must be guarded at the point of operation.

Jump saws, inverted swing cut-off saws, or up-cut saws, primarily used in lumber remanufacturing plants and similar facilities, must have a self-adjusting hood guard that will cover the part of the saw blade protruding above the top of the table or the material being cut and remain in contact with the material during the operation cycle. These saws must also have additional point of operation guarding to prevent accidental entry of fingers or hands into the path of the saw blade during operation. A "nose guard" must be fastened to the machine, typically to the saw table or hood guard with other fixed barrier guards or enclosures, or an equivalent method providing the same level of protection, to prevent inadvertent contact with the saw during operation. Guarding must protect from the front, top, and when the width of the material is less than the diameter of the saw blade, preventing the blade from being exposed in the gap between the top of the table and the hood guard. Foot pedals of saws must be protected against accidental or unexpected tripping.



Additional guards were added to provide point of operation guarding.



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Jump saws that are only equipped with hood and nose guards by the manufacturer generally need to be equipped with additional point of operation guarding. Employers should develop processes that eliminate the need for operators to place their hands in or near the danger zone during operation and when clearing away scrap pieces and sawdust by implementing the use of special hand tools or push sticks to place and remove material, an air nozzle, dust collection system, etc. However, these processes may not be used instead of point of operation guarding. Employers found in non-compliance are subject to machine guarding citations.

Oregon OSHA's [Machine Safeguarding guide](#) covers current machine-guarding requirements and focuses on point of operation hazards and safeguarding methods for equipment found in many Oregon workplaces.



Hazard alerts provide information on hazardous materials, equipment, or practices. For more information contact the Oregon OSHA Standard and Technical Resources Section at 503-378-3272 or 800-922-2689 (toll-free), or visit our website at osha.oregon.gov.