

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

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive: A-31
Issued: January 1, 1979
Revised: December 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Guarding: Cut-Off Wheels and Masonry Saws

**AFFECTED CODES/
DIRECTIVES:** 1910.215, 1926.303 and 1926.702

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for citing violations related to guards for cutoff wheels and masonry saws used in General Industry and Construction.

SCOPE: This instruction applies to all Oregon OSHA

REFERENCE: STD 01-12-026 September 26, 1994

BACKGROUND: Cut-off machines use abrasive wheels and should be cited under 1910.215, Abrasive Wheel Machinery. The source standard, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) B7.1-1970, addresses cut-off wheels and allows 150 degrees maximum angular exposure. Abrasive wheels and tools referenced in 1926.303(d) also refer back to ANSI B7.1-1970.

ANSI has since issued revised ANSI B7.1 standards dated 1978 and 1988, which now permit a maximum angular exposure of 180 degrees.

The existing Oregon OSHA General Industry regulation was adopted from the ANSI B7.1-1970 standard. Oregon OSHA has no information to support that the difference between 150 degrees and 180 degrees maximum angular exposure has any direct and immediate relationship to safety and health.

ACTION:

- A. When the guard for a cut-off wheel (**not masonry**) fails to comply with the 150 degree maximum angular exposure required by 1910.215(b)(5) or 1926.303(d), but does not allow greater than 180 degrees maximum angular exposure, the violation will be treated as de minimis.
- B. In construction, the existing Oregon OSHA regulations, 1926.303(c)(5) for abrasive wheels and 1926.702(i) for masonry saws allow a 180 degree angle of exposure.

EFFECTIVE:

This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.