

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

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive: **A-36**
Issued: **January 1, 1979**
Revised: **January 25, 2012**

SUBJECT: PPE for Meat Cutters in Food Stores

**AFFECTED CODES/
DIRECTIVES:**

[Division 2/I](#), 437-002-0134 Personal Protective Equipment

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

BACKGROUND: A question has arisen as to the application of 437-002-0134(12) 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 cutting hazards 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.

In addition, 437-002-0134 applies to retail meat cutters performing breakdown work on hanging meat when employees are exposed to cuts to the torso and legs.

After conducting on-site visits and after consulting employers and employee representatives in 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 apply with respect to the issuance of citations for violations of 437-002-0134 in the retail meat cutting industry. Personal protective equipment must be selected, provided, used, and properly maintained in retail food markets.

Wire mesh gloves or equivalent protection must be worn by meat cutters performing boning or breakdown work with a knife.

Retail meat cutters do not need to wear protective gloves if, 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 must be provided, used, and properly maintained in retail food markets in order to protect meat cutters that are breaking down hanging meat with a knife. The employer is required to ensure 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.