

**IM-94-25**

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES  
Occupational Safety and Health Division**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** April 8, 1994  
**To:** Lenora DeMenge  
**From:** Jerry Hoard  
**Subject:** Wire Wheel Guarding

**QUESTION:** On pedestal or bench grinders, the employer will sometimes use a wire wheel instead on an abrasive wheel. A hazard exists because of the turning shaft and nut end. Should this be cited under abrasive wheel machinery, 1910.215, under 1910.212, general machine guarding, or 1910.219, mechanical power transmission apparatus? It is an abrasive wheel machine but not an abrasive wheel.

**ANSWER:** The previous Oregon machine guarding code covered wire wheel under the abrasive wheel section of the code. Wire wheels are not abrasive wheels and therefore were removed from this section of the code. There are no code sections dealing with wire wheels. You can not use the requirement in 1910.215 to cite safety hazards on wire wheels. To cite a safety hazard you should use the requirements in 1910.212, general machine guarding.

Wire wheels should have at least an upper wheel cover, if cleaning large items such as axes or shovels and a full wheel cover as required for abrasive wheels with a tongue guard if doing other types of cleaning or polishing work.

Wire wheel guard housings should not be equipped with tool rests. Injury records associated with wire brush wheels showed a greater hazard exists with a work rest than without.

Exposed spindle end shafts with any shaft exposure must be guarded.