

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

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**PROGRAM DIRECTIVE**

Program Directive   A-84    
Issued   August 1, 1980    
Revised   August 12, 2009  

**SUBJECT:** Guarding: Tongue Guards and Work Rests on Grinding Wheels

**AFFECTED CODES/**

**DIRECTIVES:** 1910.215(a)(1), 1910.215(b)(9), 1926.303(b)(1), and 1926.300(b)(7) for tongue guards  
1910.215(a)(4), 1926.303(e) for work rests

**PURPOSE:** This program directive addresses the issue of which rules to cite when tongue guards are missing or out of adjustment, and work rests are missing or out of adjustment, on bench or pedestal grinders used in General Industry and in Construction.

**ACTION:** To properly cite an employer include the grinder make and serial number, identify where it is located, and state the condition that the alleged violation addresses.

In General Industry settings ([Division 2, Subdivision O, Machinery and Machine Guarding](#)) you would cite:

1910.215(a)(1) for a missing tongue guard  
1910.215(b)(9) for improperly adjusted tongue guards  
1910.215(a)(4) for missing work rests (**see clarification comment**)  
1910.215(a)(4) for improperly adjusted work rests

In Construction settings ([Division 3, Subdivision I, Tools – Hand and Power](#)) you would cite:

1926.303(b)(1) for a missing tongue guard  
1926.300(b)(7) for improperly adjusted tongue guards  
1926.303(e) for missing work rests  
1926.303(e) for improperly adjusted work rests

**Clarification: The use of work rests on offhand grinding machines.**

The purpose of a work rest, properly adjusted to within 1/8 inch of the wheel, is to prevent the workpiece from being jammed, thereby causing wheel breakage that could result in injury to the operator. The need for stabilizing the workpiece when grinding tools such as bits, chisels, drill bits, etc., is clear.

If due to the size of the workpiece, jamming is precluded, the enclosure (side guard) itself may provide protection. However, a problem may exist when due to the size, shape, weight and finishing areas of the workpiece, interference with the work rest or contacts with the wheel below the horizontal plane of the spindle are unavoidable. In these situations, the failure to have a work rest will be cited as minimal. It is not the intent of this clarification to minimize the use of work rests, when required, to protect the operator of a wheel grinder from injury.

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE:**

This directive is effective immediately and replaces PD A-20.