



MNOSHA Instruction **STD 1-12.26A**

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SUBJECT: Abrasive Operations Using Cutoff Wheels and Masonry Saws

Purpose:

This instruction provides guidelines for violations related to guards for cutoff wheels and masonry saws.

Scope:

This instruction applies MNOSHA-wide.

Reference:

1. 29 CFR 1910.215, Abrasive Wheel machinery
2. 29 CFR 1926.303, Abrasive Wheels and Tools
3. 29 CFR 1926.702(i), Requirements for Equipment and Tools
4. ANSI B7.1-1970 (R 2000). Safety Code for the Use, Care and Protection of Abrasive Wheels

Cancellation:

This instruction supersedes MNOSHA Instruction STD1-12.26, Abrasive Operations Using Cutoff Wheels and Masonry Saws, dated, May 17, 2011.

Background:

Cutoff machines utilizing abrasive wheels are used in general industry and construction. Abrasive wheels are covered under 29 CFR 1910.215(b)(5) and 1926.303(d). The source standard, ANSI B7.1-1970, "Safety Code for the Use, Care and Protection of Abrasive Wheels", allows a maximum angular exposure of 150-degrees on such equipment. Later updates to ANSI B7.1 in 1978 and 1988 and 2000 permit a maximum angular exposure of 180 degrees.

Masonry saws used in construction to cut brick, tile and concrete block utilize either an abrasive wheel or a tungsten carbide or diamond blade (water cooled). Such equipment is covered under 1926.702(i), which allows an angular exposure of 180-degrees ("a semicircular enclosure over the blade").

Conflicts exist on the maximum allowable angular exposure, but OSHA has no information to support a choice between 150° and 180° maximum angular exposure, or to substantiate any direct and immediate relationship of such a choice to safety and health.

ACTION:

- A. Cite 1910.215(b)(5) or 1926.303(d) when the guard for an abrasive cutoff wheel (not used for masonry) does not cover at least half the wheel (180 degrees).
- B. Cite 1926.702(i) when the guard for a masonry saw used in construction to cut tile, brick, concrete block, but not steel, does not cover at least half the wheel (semicircular).

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For the MNOSHA Management Team

Distribution: OSHA Compliance and WSC Director

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