

**SUBJECT:** Horizontal and Vertical Band Saws For Use Other Than Cutting Wood.

**Purpose:** To clarify requirements for guarding the point of operation or unused run of the blade of vertical and horizontal band saws used on metal, plastic and other non-wood products.

**Scope:** This directive applies MNOSHA-wide.

**References:**

- A. 1910.212(a)(1) requires machine guarding to protect employees "from hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks."
- B. ANSI B11.10.2003 "Safety Requirements for Metal Cutting Machines."
  - 1. Horizontal cutoff bandsaws: The point of operation in horizontal cutoff bandsaw machines is the plane in the machine work area delineated by the maximum dimension of the opening in the machine frame when measured along the cutting tool, and the maximum vertical dimension between the work support and the toothed edge of the cutting tool when the head is retracted to maximum capacity.
  - 2. Vertical contour bandsaws: The point of operation in vertical contour bandsaw machines is the maximum exposure area of the cutting tool when measured vertically between the work support and the opening of the machine frame.
  - 3. Vertical cutoff - moving table-type bandsaws: The point of operation in the moving-table type of vertical cutoff bandsaw machine is the maximum exposure area of the cutting tool when measured vertically between the work support and the opening of the machine frame.
  - 4. Point of operation guard: A point of operation guard is a guard covering that portion of the blade within the point of operation area which is not required to be exposed for the cutting operation.

**Cancellation:** This directive supercedes STD 1-12.16 issued February 27, 2007.

**ACTION:**

- A. The point of operation, including both the area where work is performed and the unused run of the blade not required to be exposed for the cutting operation, is to be guarded by a point of operation guard if an employee is exposed. The guard is to cover the exposed portion of the blade between the saw guide(s) and the frame of the machine. If a guard is not provided or properly adjusted, and there is exposure to an employee, a citation for 1910.212(a)(1) is to be written.
- B. Adjustable guards to meet these requirements are readily available from most manufacturers. An employer may also fabricate shop-made guards.
- C. Bandsaws used for cutting wood shall be cited under the 1910.213 standards.

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**Distribution:** OSHA Compliance and WSC Director

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