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

Cancellation:


Background:

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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