

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
Division of Labor  
Office of Occupational Safety and Health  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

**OSH Program Directive Number 80-1910.242-1 (REVISED)**

**Subject:** Reduction of Air Pressure Below 30 psi for Cleaning Purposes As Required by Article VI, Section 1910.242 (b).

**Standard:** Article VI, Section 1910.242 (b).

**Cross Reference to Federal Standards:** 29 CFR 1910.242 (b).

**Background:** This bulletin intends to provide guidance and examples of what alternate systems will meet the requirements of this section, and to clarify its intent. This directive replaces OSH Program Directive number 74-1910.242-1 (formerly OSH P. D. #74-10-1).

**Interpretation:** The phrase “reduce to less than 30 psi” means that the downstream pressure of the air at the nozzle (nozzle pressure) or opening of a gun, pipe, cleaning lance, etc., used for cleaning purposes will remain at a pressure level below 30 psi for all static conditions. The requirements for dynamic flow are such that in the case when dead-ending occurs, a static pressure at the main orifice shall not exceed 30 psi. This requirement is necessary in order to prevent a back pressure build-up in case nozzle is obstructed or dead-ended. See enclosure (1) for two acceptable methods of meeting this requirement. Also, there is no intent to restrict the diameter of the nozzle orifice or the volume (CFM) flowing from it.

“Effective chip guarding” means any method or equipment which will prevent a chip or particle (of whatever size) from being blown into the eyes or unbroken skin of the operator or other workers. Effective chip guarding may be separate from the air nozzle as in the case where screens or barriers are used. The use of protective cone air nozzles are acceptable, in general, for protection of the operator; but, barriers, baffles or screens may be required to protect other workers if they are exposed to flying chips or particles.

**Effective Date:** This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Rules and Regulations.

William M. Lybrand, Director  
August 1, 1980