

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 77-1910.213-6

Subject: Article VI, Section 1910.213 (a) (4), Woodworking Machinery Requirements.

Standard: Article VI, Section 1910.213 (a) (4), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.213 (a) (4).

Background:

- a. The purpose of this directive is to provide guidance to the field on the applicability of Section 1910.213 (a) (4) in protecting employees from automatic cut-off saws that stroke continuously without the operator being able to control each stroke.
- b. The word “automatic” used to describe cut-off machine in the original ANSI Standard (1954, Revised 1961) was a misnomer. The machine was commonly identified in industry as being power stroked. For a machine of this type, each foot pedal or pushbutton activation resulted in a complete cycle or stroke consisting of a forward cut-off motion and a motion returning the head to its starting position. It was a machine intended for use where the operator’s manual handling and/or positioning of the workpiece was required with each combination forward and return motion of the head (e.g., load, clamp, cut-off, unload, etc.)
- c. Section 1910.213 (a) (4) was not intended to restrict automation when the hazardous elements of operator involvement are eliminated and effective methods of guarding the point of operation are used.

Interpretation:

- a. In work situations where employees are not exposed to any hazards involving automatic cut-off saws, (e.g., load, clamp, cut-off, unload, etc.) such saws that stroke continuously without the operator being able to control each stroke may be used without violation of Section 1910.213 (a) (4).

- b. In work situations where employees are exposed to any hazard involving automatic cut-off saws, (e.g., load, clamp, cut-off, unload, etc.) such saws that stroke continuously without the operator being able to control each stroke are in violation of Section 1910.213 (a) (4) and shall be cited.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Rules and Regulations.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
December 15, 1977