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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
STANDARDS BOARD

Colton Swingle
38000 Via Baya
Murrieta, CA 92562
(951) 265-7343

STATE OF CALIFORNIA –
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS SAFETY AND HEALTH
STANDARDS BOARD
2520 Venture Oaks Way,
Suite 350 Sacramento, CA 95833

TITLE 8. CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
General Industry Safety Orders Sections 4307 Exception for Portable
Power-Driven Circular Saw Blade Guarding (Horcher)

We're requesting amending section §4307 numbers 1&2:

(1) Telescopic guards shall be equipped with a lifting lug or lever, remote from the blade teeth, that will permit the operator to safely shift the guard for starting unusual cuts.

(2) Saws with hinged guards shall be equipped with 2 handles so arranged that neither hand is exposed to the hazard of the rotating blade. One handle shall be on the hinged guard, and of such design that its use will avoid exposure of the hand or fingers between the retracted guard and the blade.

To read: (1) Telescopic guards shall be equipped with a hands free safe lifting device, remote from the blade teeth, that will permit the operator to safely shift the guard for starting unusual cuts without touching the lifting lug or lever.

Note: number (2) should be struck from the section §4307 because saw guards are only equipped with a small lifting lug or lever on the outer guard that if used as prescribed places the operator's hand and fingers inches from the spinning blade.

The reason for the request:

Currently all handheld circular saws are only equipped with a lifting lug or lever attached to the saw's lower guard. The purpose of the lifting lug or lever is to allow the user to raise the guard by hand to make cuts that couldn't be made otherwise. A danger arises to the user when releasing their two handed saw grip to lift the saw guard which then exposes and places their hand and fingers in close proximity to the unprotected spinning saw blade culminating in loss of saw control and possible harm. Additionally because of the allowable existing saw design based on section

§4307 (2) and in violation of section §4307 (c) it has become a common practice to circumvent the design by raising the saw's guard at will via lifting lug or lever by pinning it open continuously with a nail or piece of wood under the lifting lug or lever. The danger in doing so lies in the guard's inability to close automatically as it was designed to do, leaving the user in danger of the exposed blade.

Solution:

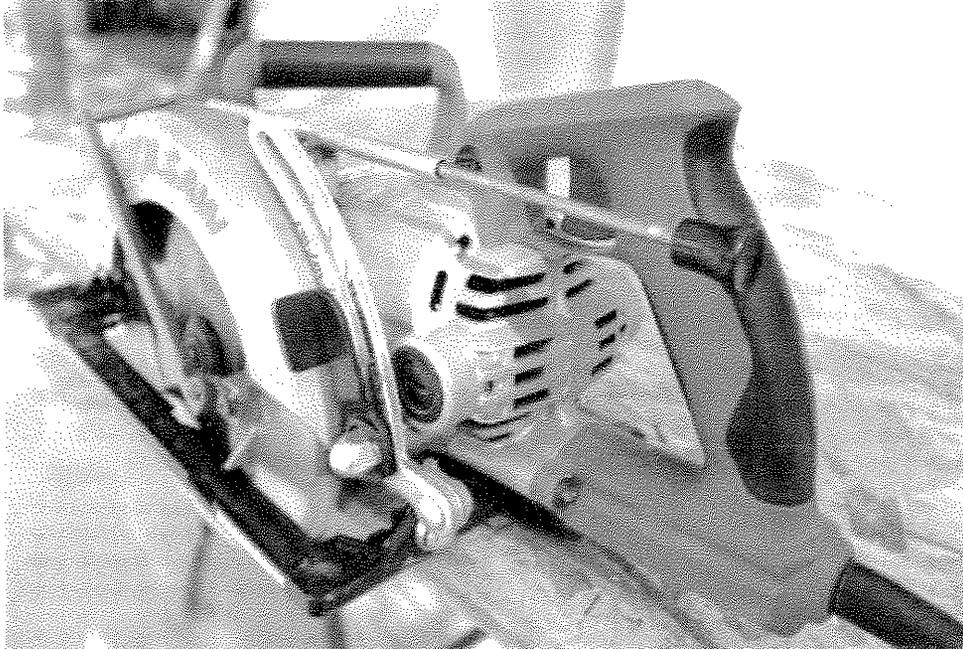
Due to the current allowable regulation section §4307 and the sequential method of operation that follows and makes possible lifting saw's guard near the blade with a small finger lug, hence adding exposure and possible harm to the operator, I bring to your attention for demonstration purposes only a product "Saw Guard Dog". It safely raises a circular saw's lower guard with a push of a button for making saw cuts while both hands remain holding onto the handles, then closes automatically at the completion of the cut as originally designed to do, as prescribed in "section §4307 ©". Should the worker lose full control of the saw during the cut, the guard will continue to close automatically so that the blade becomes concealed. This type of device is used in lieu of the operator dangerously taking a hand off of one of the saw's handles and using a *lifting lug or lever* with his fingers to raise the guard up. By using a device like this it negates the need for also illegally pinning the saw guard open continuously. Even though this information may not of been brought to the examiner's attention before now the only practical solution is to grant and amend section §4307 To read: (1) Telescopic guards shall be equipped with a hands free safe lifting device, remote from the blade teeth, that will permit the operator to safely shift the guard for starting unusual cuts without touching the lifting lug or lever.

The consequences of a denial and leaving the status quo will without a doubt lead to many more unnecessary and very preventable saw injuries.

COST ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED ACTION

A cost estimate for large scale activation of the proposed is unavailable at this time and will bare out negligible and should not circumvent appropriate action. This amendment could require the purchasing of new equipment or a retrofit of existing equipment.

Pictures:



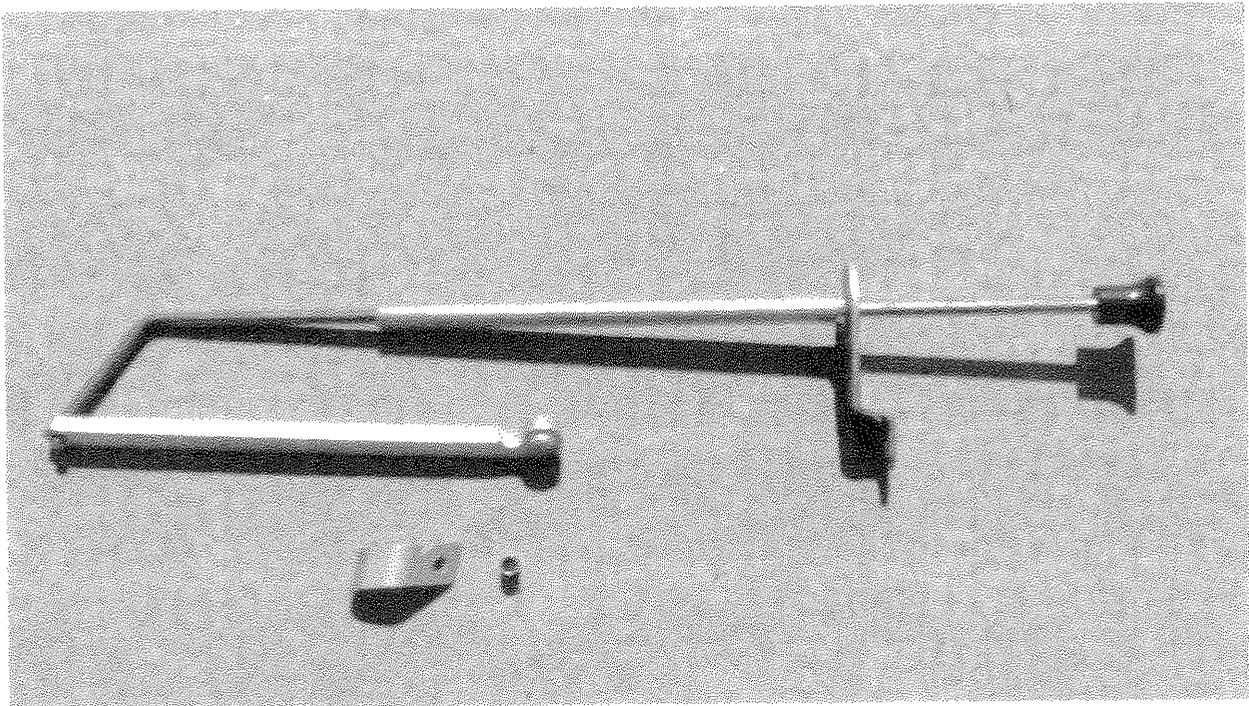
The saw guard dog device is attached to the saw at all times, but the guard is still naturally lowered unless the button is pressed in.



Workers keep both of their hands on the saw, completely compliant with your rules and still allows them to safely make their cuts.



The SGD only lifts the guard while the lever arm is pushed in. To see some short demonstrations, go to Sawguarddog.com



The unit itself showcases how easy and simple the device is. Only a few parts and easily attachable or removable from any compatible saw.

The time is now to make a meaningful change to stop letting workers get hurt. OSHA can't prevent people from illegally pinning up their guard and getting injured in any unfortunate accidents, but we can equip them with the right material to lessen the odds. The time is now to act and look into stopping more people from getting hurt in the future, regardless of whether or not the Saw Guard Dog is the perfect answer, it will get us at least one step closer to one day altogether eliminating saw-related injuries.

Colton Swipe

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