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TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION **RISK REMINDER**

Electromagnetic Switch Required On Portable Table Saws!

The Peoria OSHA office has cited a general contractor for not having an electromagnetic switch on a portable table saw that was available for use on a jobsite. The standard cited was 1910.213(b)(3). Also referenced in the citation was the letter of interpretation, of which a portion is included in this notice. This electromagnetic switch is not commonly available on 115v table saws and requires a retrofit by a qualified electrician.

Letter to OSHA Area Director:

Question: Is low voltage, light-duty equipment (115-volt, single-phase), such as band saws, sanders, and drill presses commonly found in wood and metal shops, required to protect against automatic restarting upon restoration of electrical power following an unscheduled interruption?

Answer: As you may know, the OSHA standard for woodworking equipment is found at 29 CFR 1910.213. This standard, including the provision at 1910.213(b)(3) requiring the prevention of automatic restarting of dangerous woodworking equipment following the restoration of power after an unscheduled interruption, applies to woodworking machinery regardless of its electrical power supply voltage. Tools used in metalworking (with the exception of mechanical power presses) do not have the same explicit requirement in the OSHA standards for protection against automatic restart, but, as with all electric equipment used in the workplace, are generally required to be listed and labeled by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). These NRTLs may have requirements addressing the issue of the prevention of automatic restarting in their listing and labeling criteria and testing protocols. If there are such requirements, OSHA has a provision, found at 29 CFR 1910.303(b)(2), that "listed or labeled equipment shall be used or installed in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling."

Additionally, certain equipment-specific ANSI standards have requirements that restoration of power following an interruption not create hazardous conditions. Two such examples of this are ANSI B11.8-2001 American National Standard Safety Requirements for Manual Milling, Drilling, and Boring Machines with or without Automatic Control and ANSI B11.10-2003 American National Standard for Machine Tools Safety Requirements for Metal Sawing Machines with or without Automatic Control. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 79, Electrical Standard for Industrial Machinery (2002) also contains requirements for the prevention of the unintentional restarting of equipment following an interruption of power.¹ National consensus standards often provide evidence of industry recognition of occupational hazards and of feasible means for abating the hazards...

This letter constitutes OSHA's interpretation only of the requirements discussed and may not be applicable to any situation not delineated within the original correspondence.

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (888) 562-7861

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