

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING**

CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

2000 JAN -4 A 11: 25

SUBJECT: Table Saws

DATE OF MEETING: December 8, 1999

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul, ES C.P.

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: December 29, 1999

LOCATION: UL Research Triangle Park Office

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Caroleene Paul, ES

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Attendance list to be provided

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Power Tool Institute (PTI) members presented their review of CPSC provided table saw injury data and their intended actions to address the injuries.

PTI presentation:

The distinctive characteristic of a table saw is the ability to make non-thru cuts (ie the blade only cuts part way thru the wood as the piece is moved over the blade). Because the entire piece moves over the blade, any type of cover over the blade must be removed. For this reason blade guards are designed to be

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easily removed and re-installed. There are three main types of guards available on the market today: the splitter (or spreader) guard, the overarm guard, and the riving knife (mostly used in Europe). The splitter/spreader guard is the most appropriate for common wood cutting and is the industry standard.

No guarding system eliminates all hazards. No guarding system is effective when mis-used.

PTI believes the current spreader guard is the best possible guard for most thru cuts. Education is the only way to affect the injury hazard patterns seen. Education, not redesigning the guard, is needed to convince the operators to use the blade guard. The user must be alerted to the importance of placing the guard back on the table saw. PTI intends to create and send safe use instruction videos to high school vocation teachers. There are no plans to make the videos available at stores like Home Depot or Lowes.

PTI will send the instruction videos to CPSC for review.

PTI hopes to work with UL and CPSC in determining distribution of the videos.