

Australian Standard®

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**Guarding and safe use of  
woodworking machinery**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/7, Guarding of Woodworking Machinery. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 7 June 1991 and published on 9 August 1991.

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The following interests are represented on Committee SF/7:

Australian Chamber of Commerce  
Australian Furniture Industry Association  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
CSIRO, Division of Building, Construction and Engineering  
Department of Industrial Affairs, Qld  
Department of Industrial Relations and Employment, N.S.W.  
Department of Labour, S.A.  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Guarding of Woodworking Machinery to supersede AS 1473-1974, *Code of practice for the guarding and safe use of woodworking machinery*.

This Standard is intended to be used in association with, and as a supplement to, existing statutory requirements of the various regulatory authorities by specifying requirements for good practice in the guarding and safe use of woodworking machines.

This Standard includes dimensional requirements for the design and construction of machine guards generally. These requirements are also to be incorporated in a new Standard covering machine safety in general, which is currently in course of preparation. The requirements now published in this Standard are based on the latest information available from the Committee preparing the general machine safety Standard.

The subject of chainsaws is separately covered in AS 2726, *Chainsaws – Safety requirements* and AS 2727, *Chainsaws – Guide to safe working practices*.

The guarding of machinery used in the primary milling of raw sawlogs, together with associated specialist machinery, i.e. log peelers and debarkers, has been excluded from this Standard as both the environment in which they operate and the nature of the process necessitate a different approach to machine safety.

In the preparation of this Standard, the following documents were referred to:

ANSI

01.1      *Safety requirements for woodworking machinery*

BS

5304      *Code of practice – Safeguarding of machinery*

6854      *Code of practice for safeguarding woodworking machines*

Acknowledgment is made of the assistance received from these sources.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## Guarding and safe use of woodworking machinery

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE** This Standard specifies minimum design requirements for the guarding and safe use of machines which cut or abrade wood, wood products and like materials, to be observed by employers, trainers, employees, designers, makers and suppliers of woodworking machinery and other persons having an interest in woodworking machine operations.

NOTE: Attention is drawn to the necessity for compliance with statutory requirements of relevant regulatory authorities.

**1.2 APPLICATION** This Standard is intended to apply to machines used for the manufacture of components for joinery, furniture, and the like. The following are excluded:

- (a) Machinery used for the primary milling of raw sawlogs, together with associated specialist machinery, i.e. debarkers and log peelers.
- (b) Chainsaws (see AS 2726 and AS 2727).

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS** The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1217	Acoustics—Determination of sound power levels of noise sources
1217.1	Part 1: Guidelines for the use of basic Standards for the preparation of noise test codes
1269	Hearing conservation
1270	Acoustics—Hearing protectors
1318	SAA Industrial Safety Colour Code
1337	Eye protectors for industrial applications
1359	Rotating electrical machines—General requirements
1359.4	Part 4: Rating plate markings
1470	Health and safety at work—Principles and practices
1543	Electrical equipment of industrial machines
1680	Code of practice for interior lighting and the visual environment
1755	Conveyors—Design, construction, installation, and operation—Safety requirements
2161	Industrial safety gloves and mittens (excluding electrical and medical gloves)
2210	Safety footwear
2726	Chainsaws—Safety requirements
2727	Chainsaws—Guide to safe working practices
3000	SAA Wiring Rules

**1.4 DEFINITIONS** For the purpose of this Standard, the following definitions apply.

**1.4.1 Cutter** A tool on woodworking machines, including circular sawblades of all types, band sawblades, chain cutters, knives, boring tools, detachable cutters, solid cutters, abrasive cutters (fixed or flexible) and other devices for forming or shaping.

**1.4.2 Danger** A state or condition in which personal injury is reasonably foreseeable.

**1.4.3 Failure-to-safety** A design objective providing that, in the event of any failure of the machinery, its associated safeguards, control circuits or its power supply, further movement of the operating parts is prevented.

**1.4.4 Guard** A physical barrier that prevents or reduces access to a danger point or area.

**1.4.5 Hazard** A situation which may give rise to personal injury.

**1.4.6 Interlock** A safety device that interconnects a guard with the control system or the power system of the machine.

**1.4.7 Regulatory authority** An authority having statutory powers to control the design, manufacture, installation, sale of or use of woodworking machines in the State or Territory in which the woodworking machine is to be operated.

**1.4.8 Safeguard** Any guard or safety device which protects persons from danger.