



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL

Safety Alert



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Handheld Power Tool Guards — No Guard, No Use

In one of the first team meetings of the year, it was brought up that tools were being returned to the tool room with guards and safety handles missing. We hope to illustrate that not only is this a very dangerous practice, not only is it against GIS Company Policy, but it's against the law.

GIS Company Policy **LLCP – 074, Hand and Portable Power Tools** states:

All fixed and portable tools that are designed to have guards shall have guards in place. Guards that have been installed or provided by the manufacturer shall not be removed for any reason except for the following:

- *To allow for maintenance or component replacement after power is disconnected and isolated if necessary.*

Under **OSHA 29 CFR 1910 Subpart P**, all handheld power tools must be properly guarded to protect employees from:

- Contact with rotating or moving parts
- Flying chips, sparks, or fragments
- Points of operation that can cause serious injury

Removing, defeating, or bypassing a guard is strictly prohibited.

BOTTOM LINE

No guard. No use. No exception.

Guards are not optional — they are a critical line of defense that protects hands, eyes, and lives.

If you see an unguarded tool in use:

1. **Stop the job**
2. **Remove the tool from service**
3. **Notify supervision immediately**

Safety starts with doing it right — every task, every tool, every time.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.

SAFETY ALERT

