



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4408

Record of Commission Action  
Commissioners Voting by Ballot\*

Commissioners Voting:     Chairman Hal Stratton  
                                  Commissioner Nancy A. Nord  
                                  Commissioner Thomas H. Moore

ITEM:

Petition CP 03-2, Performance Standards for Table Saws  
(Briefing Package dated June 28, 2006)

DECISION:

The Commission voted (2-1) to grant Petition CP 03-2 and direct the staff to draft an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR). Chairman Stratton and Commissioner Moore voted to grant the petition. Commissioner Nord voted to defer the decision on Petition CP 03-2, and directed the staff to initiate a project to collect additional information. Commissioner Nord included the attached statement with her vote. The petition from Dr. Stephen Gass, David Fanning and James Fulmer requested mandatory performance standards to reduce or prevent table saw blade contact injuries. The petition asserts that technology is available that can detect contact between a person and a saw blade and then react to stop and retract the blade. The technology was invented and patented by Dr. Stephen Gass, one of the primary petitioners.

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd A. Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "S".

Todd A. Stevenson  
Secretary

\* Ballot vote due July 11, 2006



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE NANCY A. NORD ON THE VOTE ON  
PETITION CP-03-2, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR TABLE SAWS**

**July 11, 2006**

Today I voted to defer the petition submitted by Messrs. Gass, Fanning and Fulmer, et. al., to mandate performance standards to reduce or prevent table saw blade contact injuries. While I am very concerned with the numbers of blade contact injuries treated annually, I believe it is premature at this time to begin a formal rulemaking proceeding. We need a clearer picture of the results of recent efforts by the power tool industry and voluntary standards-setting organizations to reduce the risk of injuries from blade contact, as well as the technical and economic feasibility of developing a performance standard that would not offer a competitive advantage to a particular reaction and detection technology.

I am also concerned that the Commissioners have not been provided with information concerning the staff resources that will be needed to manage this rulemaking activity in an effective and timely manner. While it may be that ultimately we need to move to rulemaking, before starting down this road, we should better understand what resource commitment is necessary and how this will impact our other projects.

In deferring the petition, I am also directing the staff to initiate a project to collect additional information on emerging injury reduction technology, including alternative blade guards and an evaluation of new blade guards, in preventing and reducing blade contact injuries. This new technology is currently and appropriately being reviewed by the relevant voluntary standards organizations. I expect the staff to continue participation in development of robust voluntary standards for new table saw safety features. Should the development of voluntary standards fail to protect consumers, the Commission may determine that formal rulemaking is warranted.