



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.