

## MAKITA 7 1/4" PORTABLE POWER SAW MODEL 5806B

### 1 OBJECTIVE

To advise construction and building employers and employees of a potential safety hazard associated with using the Makita 7 1/4" circular saw – model 5806B with the bottom safety guard forcibly held in the open position during operation.

### 2 BACKGROUND

Workplace services is investigating a building site incident in which a third year apprentice sustained serious injuries to his left hand while manually holding the safety guard open when operating this particular model.

The incident occurred when the safety guard did not spring back when cutting was completed. Although the fixed outer guard has a built in 'stop', it is possible to force the safety guard past this point which prevents the guard from returning to the closed position.

### 3 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare (OHSW) Act 1986, required employers to provide and maintain a safe working environment, safe work systems, and to keep plant and substances in a safe condition (section 19).

The Act also requires that a person who designs, manufactures, imports or supplies any plant, must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the plant is designed and constructed so as to be safe;

- when properly used and maintained; and
- when subjected to reasonable forms of misuse (section 24).

The OHSW Regulations 1995 state that designers of plant and manufacturers have a duty of care (division 1.2.8 and 1.2.9).

### 4 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- (1) Makita is currently modifying the safety guard in order to protect users against this potential risk. Should users of this saw have concerns, Makita will refit their saw with a modified safety guard.
- (2) Care should be taken when selecting/using a portable power saw.
- (3) To test the safety guard, hold the saw firmly in one hand, and with the other hand using the pull handle, pull back the safety guard fully until it stops.

### 5 FURTHER INFORMATION

Owners may contact Makita on **1300 361 690** or online at **makita.com.au** to make arrangements to return the saw for modification.

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