Bench Grinder Safety

The bench grinder (sometimes called an offhand or pedestal grinder) is one of the most common pieces of equipment found in a shop setting. It has a multitude of uses, but can also cause serious injuries if not operated correctly.

The OSHA regulation for grinders (29 CFR 1910.215) is one of the most frequently cited violations during OSHA inspection. This is primarily due to improperly adjusted work rests and tongue guards on bench grinders. There are

the tongue guards, work rests and spark shield. The tongue guards are metal plates located at the upper part of the wheel opening. They are designed to stop pieces of the grinding wheel from flying out in the event the wheel shatters. Tongue guards should be adjusted so they have a 1/4 inch clearance between them and the grinding wheel.