

FAQs

What is the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Proposing?

CPSC has published a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on table saws. The proposed rule would require active injury mitigation on all table saws. The proposal acknowledges that the cost of table saws would more than double, manufacturers may exit the table saw market, small manufacturers may go out of business, and sales of table saws will decrease, resulting in unemployment.

Additionally, the government could be creating a monopoly for one company (which originally petitioned the CPSC for this mandatory standard), that can either charge unreasonable licensing fees or refuse to license. All of this when voluntary standards are working.

Why is the CPSC doing this?

Because the patent-holder of said active injury mitigation technology petitioned for the change.

What harm does the CPSC rulemaking do?

Voluntary standards are working to enhance table saw safety. CPSC is required by law to rely on voluntary safety standards when the voluntary standard adequately addresses the product hazard and is likely to have substantial compliance, which it does.

At one time, the patent-holder approached table saw manufacturers offering to license its patent portfolio technology, demanding an 8% royalty on the retail value of all table saws with the technology in addition to other terms that were onerous and not related to table saw safety. If the commission's rule were to require this patented technology on all table saws, there can be no assurance that the patent-holder would willingly license technology on reasonable terms.

The commission's own proposal acknowledges that the cost of table saws would more than double, manufacturers may exit the table saw market, small manufacturers may go out of business, and sales of table saws will decrease, resulting in unemployment.

In fact, if the government effectively requires use of this specific technology, the patent-holder could demand any license terms it wants ... or not grant any license at all. That could lead to a monopoly.

Are table saws unsafe?

When used properly, table saws are safe and serve a vital purpose. From 2007 through 2021, Power Tool Institute members introduced over 7 million saws (overwhelmingly benchtop and few contractor type table saws) in the U.S. that were equipped with modular guarding systems. These guarding systems meet the requirements of the applicable safety standards, specifically UL 987 and UL 62841-3-1. User acceptance of the new modular guarding system continued to increase over time.

A Table Saw Blade Guard Survey completed by CPSC itself in 2017 to determine modular guard system usage and preferences concluded 71% of users preferred using the modular blade guard compared to the traditional blade guard or no guard at all. 83% report that the modular blade guard prevents hazards associated with operating a table saw to from moderate to large extent.

Life is full of useful, legitimate tools that, if misused or abused, can cause harm. Automobiles, kitchen knives, hair dryers, even toasters – all can cause injury or even death of not used properly. Legislating something useful out of existence makes no sense and is the ultimate in government overreach.

How can I help save table saws?

Follow the convenient links on this website to send a letter to your legislator telling him or her that you are opposed to these unnecessary and dangerous rules changes. Tell your friends and family to do the same. Post your opposition to social media and share our links and content.