



June 4, 2025

Stetson Ross Oil Drip Motors Notice

Dear Customer;

We're reaching out in our role as the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the Stetson-Ross planer, a machine that has reliably served the wood products industry for decades. Many of these planers are still in daily use — a testament to their strength, longevity, and the care of mills like yours. However, as safety knowledge and industrial standards have advanced, it has become clear that the original open “oil drip” motor systems on legacy side heads present real fire and safety risks — particularly in wood dust environments. We believe it is our responsibility, as OEM, to inform you of these developments and to offer a meaningful solution.

Why This Matters Now

Today's safety regulations recognize that airborne wood dust in and around open motors can create conditions for ignition, sparking, and fire. Standards have shifted to reflect this:

- NFPA 70 (NEC) now classifies wood dust environments as hazardous locations, requiring dust-resistant motor systems.
- OSHA 1910 Subpart O and CSA Z432 emphasize proper guarding and mechanical safety in combustible dust environments.
- ISO 13849 introduces rigorous safety expectations around functional machine integrity.

Legacy motor designs, while acceptable decades ago, are no longer suitable under modern expectations. Many facilities are already aware of this — but until recently, a fully engineered, drop-in OEM upgrade had not been available.

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A Solution That Works – ProAction™ Side Head Upgrade Kit

Murray Latta, in partnership with Kimwood, has developed the ProAction™ Side Head Upgrade Kit to provide a reliable, tested solution — modernizing your legacy planer while significantly enhancing safety, compliance, and machine life.

Key Features and Benefits:

- **Fire Hazard Reduction**
 - Sealed TEFC motors with external blower systems prevent dust entry and overheating
 - Rated for Class II, Div 2 dust environments
- **Built-in Safety Intelligence**
 - Integrated RTD sensors monitors bearing temperatures and thermistors monitor motor bearing temperatures
 - Shutdown protection before overheating can cause failure
- **Performance and Uptime Gains**
 - Higher horsepower motor options for improved throughput
 - Direct drive eliminates belts and alignment issues
- **Lower Maintenance and Greater Reliability**
 - No oil drip system: fewer parts to maintain or replace
 - Enclosed grease-lubricated spindle bearing system
- **Obsolescence Protection**
 - Replaces open motors that are now difficult or impossible to source
 - Field-proven system with service and parts support
- **Regulatory Confidence**
 - Engineered to align with OSHA, NEC, CSA Z432, and ISO 13849
 - Helps meet current workplace safety expectations without overhauling the whole planer

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Why This Is Worth Reviewing

As your OEM partner, we recognize that your team has likely already been aware of some of these safety and performance concerns — and we understand the difficulty in sourcing appropriate retrofit options until now. By upgrading with the ProAction Kit, you can:

- Future-proof your planer against component obsolescence
- Improve safety in dusty operational zones
- Enhance uptime with a tested, integrated mechanical/electrical solution
- Ease maintenance and reduce unexpected downtime
- Align with current safety expectations and show proactive diligence

We know that every mill has its own operational realities and budget planning cycles. Our purpose here is not to pressure a decision, but to ensure you are aware of the risks and the solution now available to you.

Let's Talk When You're Ready

We're happy to provide technical support, application reviews, or a quote whenever it fits your schedule. Our team can assist with integration planning or coordinate with your internal maintenance and electrical personnel. Please find an informational brochure attached. If you'd like to connect directly, we'd be pleased to arrange a call, or on-site visit, to review your planer and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again for your continued trust in Murray Latta, Kimwood, and the legacy of the Stetson-Ross product line. We remain committed to supporting you with safe, forward-thinking solutions for today's operations.

Sincerely,
Erwin Bartz



General Manager

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