

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts or amputations from contact with saw blades



Impact injuries and amputation as a result of entanglement



Hearing loss or physical damage to ears from exposure to noise



Eye injuries as a result of exposure to wood fragments, shavings or dust



Electric shock from faulty equipment



Breathing difficulty, occupational asthma from exposure to wood shavings or dust

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?



You must be trained and 18 years or older to use this equipment

Bench grinders

Safety Task Card STCBG 29

Safe System of Work

1. You must be 18 years of age or over and trained to use the bench grinder.
2. Check that the workbench is stable, and that grinder is secured to the bench.
3. Make sure all cabling is stored away safely behind the equipment and is not causing a trip hazard.
4. The wheel must have a maximum RPM at least as high as the maximum RPM of the grinder.
5. Before plugging the grinder in, spin the wheel manually to check it is free spinning.
6. The wheel must not be loose or spinning unevenly.
7. Check the grinder wheel for cracks or damage.
8. Ensure wheel guards are in place and that these are not damaged or cracked.
9. The tool rest must be no further than 1/8 inch (3mm) from the face of the wheel.
10. The tongue guard must be no further than 1/4 inch (6mm) from the face of the wheel.
11. Any adjustments must be made with the grinder turned off and unplugged.
12. Ensure the appropriate fixed LEV or portable dust extraction system is selected/attached before use.
13. The guards must be in place before the equipment is turned on.
14. Before use, check that the stop button and the cut out are in working condition.
15. You must wear safety goggles / or a face shield and hearing protection when using a grinder.
16. Loose clothing and lanyards must be contained within your overalls, long hair must be tied back, and any jewelry removed.
17. Only wear gloves where necessary and there is no risk of entanglement.
18. Stand to the side when the grinder starts up and allow it to come up to operating speed before applying work.
19. Bring work into contact with the wheel slowly and smoothly and apply gradual pressure.

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.

Bench grinders continued

Safety Task Card STCBG 29

Safe System of Work

20. Only use the amount pressure required and move work back and forth across the face of the wheel.
21. Do not use the side of the wheel.
22. Be aware of sparks when grinding metal.
23. Do not leave the grinder until the wheel has come to a complete stop.
24. Never stick an object into the wheel to slow it down.
25. The grinder must be turned off and isolated from the electrical supply before changing the grinder wheel.
26. Leave the area clean and tidy and dispose of any waste materials using the correct site procedures.
27. Report to you manager if you feel any numbness or inability to feel temperatures during or after using the equipment, or if you experience any hearing loss symptoms.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding