

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts or amputations from contact with saw blades



Impact injuries as a result of entanglement



Impact injuries as a result of kickback



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



Hearing loss or physical damage to ears from exposure to noise



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



Fire from sparks



Hand arm vibration from excessive use

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 saws

Safety Task Card STCBG 23

Safe System of Work

1. Only use equipment if you have been trained to do so. Follow the manufacturer's instructions where these are available.
2. Before use, check that the stop button and the automatic cut out are in working condition.
3. Check that the switch is in the off position before plugging equipment in.
4. Make sure all cabling is stored away safely behind the equipment and is not causing a trip hazard.
5. Check that the equipment is stable and level.
6. Inspect the blade for damage and replace if necessary.
7. Ensure the appropriate fixed LEV or portable dust extraction system is selected/attached before use.
8. Check that the saw guard is in place. It must be adjusted so that it is as close as possible to the material being cut. The gap between the riving knife and the blade must be set as close as possible, and a maximum of 8mm.
9. You must wear safety goggles and hearing protection when using the saw.
10. Gloves should not be worn as these can be pulled into the saw.
11. Loose clothing and lanyards must be contained within your overalls, long hair must be tied back, and any jewelry removed.
12. Allow the blade to reach full speed before cutting.
13. Stand to the slightly to the side of the blade to avoid kickback.
14. Do not cut material containing screws, nails or other metal objects.
15. Only cut one piece at a time.
16. Do not feed the work piece faster than the saw can accept.
17. Keep fingers and hands away from the rotating blade and do not reach beyond the rotating blade.
18. Use an outfeed table to support cut material.

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 saws continued

Safety Task Card STCBG 23

Safe System of Work

19. Use a push pad, push block or push stick where appropriate.
20. Push sticks must be available for the last 300mm of a cut.
21. Push sticks should be at least 450mm long with a 'bird's mouth'.
22. Don't reach for work or leave the equipment until the saw has completely stopped rotating.
23. The saw must be turned off and isolated from the electrical supply before changing the blade.
24. Use a stick or brush to remove saw dust or cuttings.
25. Only use blades that are approved for the equipment being used.
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.

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