

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts or amputations from contact with saw blades



Impact injuries 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

Disc cutters (portable petrol)

Safety Task Card STCBG 25

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 all safety guards are secured in place and in good condition. If guards are damaged, do not use the equipment and report the damage to your manager.
4. Make sure the surrounding area is clean and tidy, and there are no flammable materials in the vicinity.
5. A 2m exclusion zone should be maintained when cutting, particularly behind the saw, to protect other workers from sparks and dust.
6. You must wear gloves, safety goggles and hearing protection when using the disc cutter.
7. Loose clothing and lanyards must be contained within your overalls, long hair must be tied back, and any jewelry removed.
8. If using a workbench check that it is stable.
9. The area should be well ventilated, and a dust bag must be attached to the disc cutter, unless water is being used for dust suppression.
10. Ensure you are using the correct blade for the material being cut.
11. Follow the manufacturers instructions when changing a blade and only use blades that are approved for the equipment being used.
12. Keep fingers and hands away from the rotating blade.
13. Allow the blade to reach full speed before cutting.
14. Only cut one piece at a time.
15. Do not cut wood containing screws, nails or other metal objects.
16. Do not use the disc cutter for longer than 30 minutes at any one time.
17. Keep hands warm.

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.

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Safe System of Work

18. Leave the area clean and tidy and dispose of any waste materials using the correct site procedures.
19. 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