

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts or amputations from contact with saw blades



Impact injuries as a result of kickback



Hearing loss or physical damage to ears from exposure to noise



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



Hand arm vibration from excessive use



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



Fire from sparks

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

Circular saws, including track/plunge saws

Safety Task Card STCBG 21

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. Set the depth, so that the lowest part of the blade is no lower than 0.3 cm beneath the depth of the work, whilst the saw is unplugged. Make sure all cabling is stored away safely behind the equipment and is not causing a trip hazard.
5. Ensure the appropriate fixed LEV or portable dust extraction system is selected/attached before use.
6. Check that the saw guard is in place and that there is no damage to the blade, that is sharp and the correct type for the material being worked.
7. You must wear safety goggles and hearing protection when using the saw.
8. Loose clothing and lanyards must be contained within your overalls, long hair must be tied back, and any jewelry removed.
9. Ensure the item being worked on is secure and stable, and held in place with a mounting device.
10. Allow the blade to reach full speed before cutting.
11. Only cut one piece at a time.
12. Do not cut material containing screws, nails or other metal objects.
13. Always use two hands to operate the saw, with one operating the trigger switch and the other on the front handle.
14. Keep fingers and hands away from the rotating blade.
15. Don't overreach and ensure you have stable footing and are well balanced.
16. Never force the retracting lower guard in the open position.

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.

Circular saw, including track/plunge saws continued

Safety Task Card
STCBG 21

Safe System of Work

17. Don't twist the saw to change or adjust alignment.
18. Don't put the equipment down until the saw has completely stopped rotating.
19. The saw must be turned off and isolated from the electrical supply before changing the blade.
20. Only use blades that are approved for the equipment being used.
21. Leave the area clean and tidy and dispose of any waste materials using the correct site procedures.
22. 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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