

Band Saw Operations – Safe Work Procedure

Purpose: To provide staff, with a list of procedures to ensure they are protected against potential hazards associated with Band Saw Operations.

Hazards: Work involving fine wood dust, wood chips and other combustible materials. Work that requires close proximity to a working blade that could injure fingers, hands, arms or entangle cloths or hair. Hazards include cut, pinch, crush, inhalation, and struck by flying debris or objects.

WARNING: DO NOT use this machine unless you have been trained in its safe use and operation. Failure to comply could result in severe injury.

General Safety

- Never start work without proper authorization & training.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** eye protection, including protective glasses or goggles, hearing protection (when equipment is in use) and long pants. Hearing protection can include earmuffs or ear plugs based on the sound level.
- Tie back hair, no loose clothing and no jewelry should be worn.
- **Do Not** wear gloves when operating a band saw.

Before BAND SAW OPERATIONS

- Ensure workspaces, table, and walkways are free and clear of clutter and debris.
- Make sure the blade guides are positioned 6mm / ¼" above the workpiece and the tabletop is smooth and polished.
- Check that the blade is in good condition and properly tensioned.
- Locate and be aware of the operation of the ON/OFF switch or E-stop.
- Disconnect power supply before changing or adjusting tools and equipment.

During BAND SAW OPERATIONS

- Set up operation correctly for ripping, re-sawing, crosscutting or free handing processes.
- Use a push stick when required.
- Round stock must be placed in a push-tray or held with a wood clamp.
- Keep hands and fingers out of the path of the blade and a minimum 50mm / 2" away from the working blade.
- Hold the stock firmly and flat on the table to prevent stock from turning and drawing your fingers into the blade.
- If you need to stop cutting, hold the material firmly and shut down the saw. Wait for the blade to stop moving before removing the piece.
- Release work pieces after they have gone past the blade.
- Do not leave machine running while unattended.
- Shut OFF the power supply to the motor before mounting/removing accessories or removing scrap pieces from work area. Utilize the foot brake after pressing the stop button.

After BAND SAW OPERATIONS have been completed

- Collect all waste/debris and place in appropriate containers.
- Inspect equipment to ensure no damage has occurred, guards and other devices are in good condition and in place. Record any damage as per the Technology Education Safety Manual.
- If equipment is damaged or inoperable follow lockout procedures.