

Purpose

To safely operate the Band Saws.

Procedure

1. Employees will be properly and thoroughly trained before attempting to do any work with or on any Band Saw.
2. Read and understand operating instructions.
3. It is the duty of each operator to immediately eliminate or report any changes occurring on the machine or in the material being processed which changes may affect the machine's safe operation.
4. The cleanliness and tidiness of the machine and its surrounding area must be ensured through appropriate instructions, routine inspections and cleaning.
5. Do not operate a band saw with neckties, loose sleeves, jackets, or jewellery.
6. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including eye protection.
7. Work on or alteration of the machine which detrimentally affects the safety of the machine in any way is prohibited.
8. Keep guards in place and in working condition.
9. Keep work area clean. Cluttered areas and benches invite accidents.
10. Keep all observers at a safe distance from the work area.
11. Switch off the power at the power point when making adjustments or changing blades.
12. Avoid dangerous environments. Don't use band saws in damp or wet locations Keep work area well lit.
13. For straight cutting, always use a fence or guide.
14. Always hold the wood being cut with both hands, being careful to keep hands away from the saw.
15. An inexperienced operator must saw slowly at first until experience is gained.
16. If there is work that has to be bevelled or chamfered, tilt the band saw table to the desired angle and lock it in that position. Always hold the work to the right of the blade.
17. The guide post may be moved up or down and guide must always be adjusted so that the bottom of the guide is slightly higher than the material to be saved.
18. The steel jaws will have to be set each time a blade of different blade width is used.
19. The pointer must always be in the center of the blade regardless of the size of the blade.
20. Keep your blade properly filed and set, and avoid backing the saw out of the cut.

Safety Guidelines

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Only Competent Personnel are permitted to use this machinery.
2. The rated bar capacity of the machine must never be exceeded.
3. The proper blade must always be selected for the type and size of the stock to be cut.
4. Follow the instructions of the manufacturer, always, regarding the use of the machine.

JOB SEQUENCE	POSSIBLE HAZARDS	PROCESSES TO FOLLOW	OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS & PPE
1. General precautions	Falling objects	For supporting long lengths of stock, use stands.	Adjust the stands to keep the stock level.
	Over-exertion / strain injury	For loading large sections of stock into machine, use mechanical aids or obtain assistance.	Proper manual handling procedures must be followed.
		Make sure the jaws of vice are undamaged and clean.	For handling sharp or rough objects, wearing leather gloves is recommended.
		Before commencing to cut, make sure the stock is held securely in vice.	
Lips, trips and falls	Make sure there are no coolant spills and scrap material in the area around the machine.		

Procedure: Band Saw Operation

JOB SEQUENCE	POSSIBLE HAZARDS	PROCESSES TO FOLLOW	OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS & PPE
2. Operation	Falling objects	Support must be provided for material being cut off.	
	Flying objects	There is risk of eye injury from broken blades, chips, etc.	Wearing eye protection is mandatory.
	Cuts	Never force the job into the saw, let the saw cut at its own speed. Never place hands at risk, always use a tool or a pusher stick to enable cutting. Cut ends of stock will generally have sharp burrs and edges.	When operating a band saw, always keep fingers and hands clear of the blade. Remain focused and concentrate on the job. Do not talk to other staff while cutting.
	Damage to and wearing of blades	To provide maximum support for the blade when cutting, adjust the blade guides to be as close to the work as possible.	
		For cutting off large sections, larger machines will have coolant pump fitted.	When coolant is present and when handling large items, wearing apron is recommended.
		Make sure the coolant tank has enough coolant for continuous flow.	
	Foreign body in eye	Before removing saw blade from pulleys, release the blade tensioner.	Wearing eye protection is mandatory.
	Inhalation of toxic dust	Always avoid breathing the dust of MDF (craftwood) or similar products that contain adhesives based on formaldehydes.	Wearing dust mask is advisable.

Procedure: Band Saw Operation

JOB SEQUENCE	POSSIBLE HAZARDS	PROCESSES TO FOLLOW	OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS & PPE
3. Replacement of blade	Moving parts	Before carrying out maintenance, switch off power at the power point.	Isolate machine from mains power after switch off.
	Foreign body in eyes	Before removing saw blade, release the blade tensioner	Wearing eye protection is recommended
	Cuts	For handling sharp or rough objects, wear gloves.	Wearing hand protection is recommended.
		Before placing new blade onto machine, clean wheels and guides.	
		Before machine is returned to service, make sure the blade is properly tensioned.	
4. Maintenance	Moving Parts	If possible, lock out and isolate the machine.	
	Slips, trips and falls	Make sure the working space around the machine is clear, and the floor is free of dust, dirt, debris, etc.	
	Inhalation of toxic dust Foreign body in eye	Clean using a brush. Never use compressed air for blowing dust from the work area.	Wearing dust mask is recommended. Wearing eye protection is mandatory.
	Cuts	Ensure saw blade has no missing teeth, wear, cracks, etc. If necessary, replace blade.	For handling sharp or rough items, wearing leather gloves is recommended.
		Check and adjust blade tension, never over-tension.	
	Before re-powering machine, ensure cabinet is closed / area is clear.		

END OF DOCUMENT