

DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program

Table Saw Safety

Purpose: Provide safety requirements for operating table saws.

PPE: Safety glasses, if material can chip easily then a full face shield must also be worn in addition to the safety glasses. No jewelry such as watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces, chains, etc. are to be worn.

If you have long hair, tie it or restrain it with a hairnet. If hair is simply tucked inside a hardhat, it can come loose and get caught in moving parts. Even a long beard can be a hazard in a machine work environment.

Operation: Recognize the majority of amputations involving table saws occur on unguarded machines. Before operating check the following points:

- ✓ Wobble blades are not permitted on table saws.
- ✓ Whenever blades are changed or service to the saw is to be done the power disconnect must be locked in the OFF position following the LOTO procedure. If equipped with a power cord and plug the saw must be unplugged and moved to the servicing personnel can see the plug while working on the saw. The saw must be tested for kinetic energy before beginning service.
- ✓ Find shut off.
- ✓ If stock becomes jammed, stop the saw (per LOTO procedure) and wait for the blade to come to a complete stop before clearing stock from the saw.
- ✓ Be certain exhaust is connected securely to dust collection unit.
- ✓ Check the hood guard and anti-kickback devices for proper operation.
- ✓ Clear table of debris etc.
- ✓ If used check fence is set properly and tight.
- ✓ If guards are not self adjusting to the material height, be sure there is minimal clearance between the guard and top of the material.
- ✓ Blade height should be set from the bottom of the gullet to the top of the material no more than ¼ inch clearance. Setting the blade higher than that increases the risk of injury to the operator.
- ✓ All table saws must have a hood guard, splitter, and anti-kickback device installed. One or more of these devices may be removed ONLY if absolutely necessary to perform a specific cut (i.e. dado, rabbet) and only with the approval of the Supervisor. Any safety devices removed must be immediately re-installed after completing the special cuts.
- ✓ The fence and miter gauge should never be used together. Use the fence for ripping and the miter gauge for cross-cutting.
- ✓ If fence is used be certain it is set properly and tight.
- ✓ Push sticks, feather boards, hold downs etc. must be used whenever an operation is performed that would require the operator's hands to pass **within 6 inches** of the saw blade.

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- ✓ When boards over 3 feet in any dimension are cut, a helper should be used to assist in supporting the work or an out feed table extension is used.
- ✓ Set blade height so the top of the teeth extend no more than ¼ inch above the wood.
- ✓ Stand to the side of the wood while it is being fed through the saw.
- ✓ Maintain a 2 foot perimeter around table free of debris and sawdust.
- ✓ After work is completed, saw blade must be lowered below table.