

SECTION 3(19)

WOODWORKING MACHINERY

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INTRODUCTION

Woodworking machines can be dangerous if improperly used. The wide range of work of which they are capable, requires adequate safeguarding arrangements against possible hazards.

Many injuries to machinists are caused by carelessness, failure to use the guards provided or to adjust them correctly.

It is the user's responsibility to see that the following rules are complied with in order to ensure safety at work:

The operation of the machines must conform to the requirements of the Woodworking Machines Regulations 1974 - which should be exhibited wherever such machinery is installed and used.

All guards must be used and adjusted correctly.

Only authorised personnel, trained in the safe use of a machine, shall be permitted to operate it.

Before making adjustments or clearing chips etc, the machine should be stopped and all movement should have ceased.

All tools and cutters must be securely fixed and the speed selected must be appropriate for the tooling.

CUTTERS

A substantial guard will be provided to enclose any cutter to the greatest practicable extent. In particular, substantial guards must be provided and maintained, in the case of circular saws, both above and below the machine table, including a guard for the crown and front of the saw. It must be specially noted that the incorrect adjustment of guards can be a contributory factor in accidents, as can blunt cutters. Care must be taken to ensure the riving knife is operating correctly so as to avoid the workpiece being thrown back at the operator. Particular care must be taken at all times but especially when feeding wood through circular saws, the use of push stick is recognised good safe working practice for feeding the final part of the work. This should be adopted wherever practicable.

BAND SAWS

In all cases during the use of a band saw the recognised necessary enclosure of the blade and other defined safeguards must be adopted.

- (a) The upper blade guard should be adjusted so that it is no more than 10mm above the surface of the material to be cut.
- (b) When the machine is not in use, and when changing blades or carrying out other maintenance activities, remove the safety key from the switch casing to prevent accidental starting. For complete safety, disconnect the machine from the mains supply.
- (c) The machine start button can only be pressed if the key has first been inserted the right way round in the adjacent slot.
- (d) Keep the work area clean, tidy and free from all hand tools, etc.
- (e) Before switching on, ensure that the worktable is secured at the angle required for the job in hand.

- (f) Always use sharp blades of the correct type designed for the material/cut involved.
- (g) Keep hands well clear of the blade. Use a push stick for narrow cuts.
- (h) Ensure that the central table insert is always properly located before starting the machine.
- (i) Never run the machine without first securing the hinged cover in its closed position.
- (j) The machine should always be secured to a bench or the leg-stand via the holes in the base using the bolts supplied with the bandsaw.

PLANING OR JOINTING MACHINES

Guards must be maintained and kept in proper adjustment for each operation. Extra special care must be taken when operations, other than normal surface planing, are being undertaken on these machines. Most of these operations cannot be classed as planing and therefore the cutter must be effectively guarded. Where necessary, guards must be provided to prevent workpieces being thrown back by the knives.

ADJUSTMENTS

Guards and parts of machinery must not be adjusted in close proximity to moving cutters.

TEMPERATURE

The minimum temperature in the workroom should be 13 Celcius.

CARPENTERS JOINERS AND MACHINISTS

- (a) Accumulation of woodchips must be kept to a minimum consistent with the work in hand.
- (b) Smoking is strictly prohibited.
- (c) Adequate means of dust extraction must be provided and maintained in effective working order.
- (d) Where ear protectors are provided, they must be used by the operators of machinery.

REFERENCES

L114 – Safe Use of Woodworking Machinery