

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C019: Saw Guards

Introduction: Saw guards are furnished by the manufacturer and are required by law. These safety guards are mounted so as to prevent the operator from inadvertently touching the blade during the cutting operation. The removal of safety guards may result in disabling injuries such as loss of fingers, serious lacerations, and sometimes death.

Ripsaws, crosscut table saws, and circular resaws:

- **Each circular** hand-fed saw must be guarded by a hood which completely encloses that portion of the saw above the table and that portion of the saw above the material being cut.
- **Each hand-fed circular rip saw** must be furnished with a spreader to prevent material from squeezing the saw or being thrown back on the operator.
- **Each hand-fed circular rip saw** must have non-kickback fingers or dogs to oppose the thrust or tendency of the saw to pick up the material or throw it back toward the operator.

Self-feed circular saws:

- **Feed rolls and saws** must be protected by a guard to prevent the hands of the operator from coming in contact with the in-running rolls.
- **Each self-feed circular rip saw** must have sectional non-kickback fingers, or dogs, for the full width of the feed rolls.
- **Swing cutoff saws and radial saws:**
- **Each saw must have** a hood that will completely enclose the upper half of the saw, the arbor end, and the point of operation at all positions of the saw.
- **Each saw must have** a device to return the saw automatically to the back of the table when released at any point of travel.
- **Limit chains** or other devices must be provided to prevent the saw from swinging beyond the front or back edges of the table.
- **Ripping and ploughing** must be against the direction in which the saw turns. The direction of the saw rotation must be conspicuously marked on the hood. In addition, a permanent label not less than 1 ½ inches by ¾ inch must be posted to the rear of the guard reading as follows: “DANGER: DO NOT RIP OR PLOUGH FROM THIS END”.

Never operate a saw, or any machinery unless properly trained and approved to operate it. If you have any questions regarding the safe operation of saws, or are uncomfortable operating saws, do not use the saw until you seek proper training from your supervisor.

Bandsaws and band resaws:

- **All portions** of the saw blade must be enclosed or guarded, except for the working portion of the blade between the bottom of the guide rolls and the table. Bandsaw wheels must be fully encased.
- **Each bandsaw** must have a tension control device to indicate proper tension for the standard saws used on the machine. This will assist in the elimination of saw breakage due to improper tension.
- **Feed rolls** of band resaws must be protected with a guard to prevent the hands of the operator from coming in contact with the in-running rolls.
- **Hand-held circular saws (skill saws):**
- **Hand held,** portable circular saws must be equipped with the manufacturer’s supplied blade guard.
- **The guard** must be operational and in good condition.
- **Never pin back** or disable the retractable guard.

Conclusion: Saws are equipped with guards to protect the operator. They have been designed by the manufacturer and extensively tested for your safety. Never disable a saw guard, or operate a saw which has the guard removed.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.