

## *Saw Policy*

The purpose of the Saw Policy is to protect employees from hazards associated with band saws, portable circular saws, radial saws, swing or sliding cut-off saws and table saws, and to ensure compliance with New Hampshire Department of Labor Standards 1403.51 Saws.

### **A. Employers Responsibilities**

The employee is responsible for ensuring proper guarding of all saws. He/She must also provide proper guards for all saws and training seminars on safe use for all saws.

### **B. Employee Responsibilities**

The employees shall ensure that proper guards on saws are in place before use, and perform pre-use inspection of all saws. The employees are not permitted to use any saw that cannot pass all parameters of pre-use checklist, and must always wear eye protection (personal protective equipment).

### **C. Requirements**

All portions of the band saw are required to be enclosed and guarded except for the working portion of the blade between the bottom of the guide rolls and the table. Band saw wheels shall be fully enclosed according to the following requirements:

- The outside periphery of the enclosure shall be solid
- The front and back shall be either solid wire mesh or perforated metal

All portable, power-driven circular saws having a blade diameter greater than two inches, shall be equipped with guards above and below the base plate or shoe. The lower guards shall cover the saw to the depth of the teeth, except for the minimum area required to permit the base plate to be tilted for bevel cuts, and shall automatically return to the covering position when the blade is withdrawn from the work. This does not apply to circular saws used in the meat industry for meat cutting purposes.

Radial saws shall have an upper guard, which completely encloses the upper half of the saw blade. A device that shall automatically adjust to the thickness of the material and remain in contact with the material being cut shall guard the sides of the lower exposed portion of the blade. Radial saws used for ripping shall be equipped with a device that will prevent material from kicking back toward the operator and shall be properly adjusted. An adjustable stop shall be provided to prevent the forward travel of the blade beyond the table, or the position necessary to complete the cut in repetitive operations.

All swing or sliding cut-off saws shall be provided with a hood that shall completely enclose the upper half of the saw. Limit stops shall be provided to prevent swing or sliding type cut-off saws from extending beyond the front or back edges of the table.

Each swing or sliding cut-off saw shall be provided with an effective device to automatically return the saw to the back of the table when released at any point of travel. Inverted cut-off saws shall be provided with a hood that shall cover the part of the saw that protrudes above the top of the table or material being cut.

Circular table saws shall have a hood over the portion of the saw above the table, so when mounted the hood shall automatically adjust itself to the thickness of the material being cut. Circular table saws shall have a spreader aligned with the blade spaced no more than ½ inch behind the largest blade mounted in the saw. The provision of a spreader in connection with grooving, dadoing, or rabbeting shall not be required. Circular table saws used for ripping shall be equipped with a device that will prevent material from kicking back toward the operator and shall be properly adjusted. Feed rolls and blades of self-fee circular saws shall be protected by a hood or guard to prevent the hand of the operator from coming in contract with the in-running rolls at any point.

All parameters of a saw checklist must be met before the saw may be used. If accommodations cannot be made so that the saw meets the requirements, it should be removed from service until fit for use.

#### **D. Personal Protective Equipment**

The personal protective equipment typically required when using saws include safety glasses/goggles and dust mask.

*From the Town of Amherst's Policy and Procedure Manual, 2009.*