

LMCS – Safe Work Procedure

CIRCULAR SAW



DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation and have passed the safety accreditation

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Safety glasses must be worn at all times in work areas.
- Long and loose hair must be contained.
- Hearing protection must be worn.
- Sturdy footwear must be worn at all times in work areas.
- Close fitting/protective clothing must be worn.
- Rings and jewellery must not be worn.

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Locate and ensure you are familiar with all machine operations and controls and emergency stops.
- ✓ Ensure the machine, power cords etc. are in safe working condition.
- ✓ Check workspaces and walkways to ensure no slip/trip hazards are present and that no one will be harmed by you operating the machine.
- ✓ Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional. Do not operate if guards are missing or faulty.
- ✓ Ensure table and work area is clear of all tools, off-cut timber and sawdust.
- ✓ Check that you are feeding in from the correct side.

- ✗ Do not put your hands any closer than 150 mm from the cutter head when it is rotating.
- ✗ Never leave the machine running unattended.
- ✗ Do not use heavy pressure to a point the machine slows down audibly at a starkly reduced pitch.

This SWP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with this equipment and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed as a guide to be used to compliment training and as a reminder to users prior to equipment use.

This information is modified from Frontline Safety www.frontline.edu.au

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OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Plug in the machine.
- ✓ Allow blade to obtain maximum speed before making a cut.

ENDING OPERATIONS AND CLEANING UP

- ✓ Switch off the machine when work completed.
- ✓ Leave the machine in a safe, clean and tidy state.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND INJURIES

- Kickback: saw may catch or jam and be flung back violently.
- Airborne dust.
- Eye and hearing injuries.
- Contact with blade at point of operation, potentially severe injuries.

DON'Ts

- ✗ Do not use operate equipment without wearing appropriate PPE.
- ✗ Do not use faulty equipment. Immediately report suspect equipment.
- ✗ Do not surface irregular stock, branches or wood with embedded nails or screws.

Safe Operating Procedures – CIRCULAR SAW

BACKGROUND INFORMATION & READING

This video will assist you in following safe work practices:

[HOW TO USE A CIRCULAR SAW FOR BEGINNERS- PART 1 - YouTube](#)

[HOW TO USE A CIRCULAR SAW FOR BEGINNERS - PART 2 - YouTube](#)

[11 WORST CIRCULAR SAW MISTAKES!! And How To Avoid them...\(DON'T DO THESE THINGS! Kickback/Binding\) - YouTube](#)

Please note that a riving knife is not fitted in the saw used in these videos. The riving knife is compulsory if saws can accommodate one. However the remainder of the videos were of good quality and therefore are used here.

Videos need to be viewed prior to arranging an assessment.

FITNESS TO OPERATE CIRCULAR SAW

Members are expected to refrain from working on these power tools and machines if they acknowledge their own level of physical ability inhibits them from doing so safely.

However, if assessors determine that a member has some level of physical impairment that makes it unsafe to use machines, they will have no option other than to assess the member as not having the capacity to do so safely.

You can still do your projects, just mark the timber and ask another shed member to cut/machine the timber for you. You are not compelled to cut the timber yourself and in this environment, you will easily find others that are more than able and willing to do the cutting for you.

GENERAL RULES & TIPS

- Using circular saws at LMCS is not preferred and should be avoided.
- 9" circular saws are not permitted at LMCS and although a machine may be available you need to contact the Supervisor before using it.
- Make sure your workpiece is secure (ie clamped) and will not move during the cut. If the offcut is long, make sure it is adequately supported during and AFTER the cut.
- Consider clamping a fence to keep you cut straight.
- Before you start using the machine set the depth of the blade AND CHECK the guard retracts well to protect you and the blade.
- Follow all instructions of the video to avoid the: "11 WORST CIRCULAR SAW MISTAKES"
- If recycled material is used, all timber MUST be visually checked for nails and screws. After that the timber MUST also be checked with the metal detector. Processing CCA treated timber is not permitted.
- If connected to the dust extraction system or vacuum cleaner; before commencing operation ensure dust extraction system is switched on either manually or automatically.
- Ensure timber is supported as per the video to avoid the: "11 WORST CIRCULAR SAW MISTAKES"
- The circular may only be used on timber. In other words no metals or plastics.
- Either route the cable over your hand or around your shoulder.
- At times it may be beneficial to lift the guard as you begin the cut but let it go back on its own once 250 mm has been cut.

If blades require changing, unless it is your own machine, that activity is NOT covered in the scope of this procedure.

LAKE MONGER COMMUNITY SHED

