

SAFE Work Practice Circular Power Saws

CSAM # 1



Circular power saws are widely used in construction and users should not become complacent in operating these tools. They can result in serious injuries if not used correctly and maintained in good working condition.

Hazards: -cuts and amputations, high noise levels resulting in hearing loss, contusions, flying objects/particles, repetitive strain injuries, electrocution

Do

- Wear all PPE, including gloves, safety eyewear and footwear, hearing protection.
- Check the guard regularly to ensure it works freely and provides full coverage.
- Allow the saw to attain full power before cutting.
- Secure work being cut to avoid undue movement.
- Ensure that the blade that you have selected is sharp enough to do the job. Sharp blades work better and are safer.
- Check the saw for proper blade rotation.

Do Not

- Force the retracting lower guard in the open position.
- Place hand under guard of the saw.
- Force the saw during cutting.
- Cut materials without first checking for obstructions or other objects such as nails, etc.
- Carry the saw with a finger on the trigger switch.
- Overreach-keep proper footing and balance.
- Twist the saw to change, cut or check alignment.
- Use a saw that vibrates or appears unsafe.

General Safe Work Practices

1. Inspect the circular saw and ensure it is in good operating condition and is equipped with all proper functioning guards in place.
2. Make sure you are familiar with the safe operating procedures and any limitations on the use of the saw.
3. Wear all appropriate PPE for the task, such as gloves, safety eyewear and footwear, hearing protection, and respirator (if necessary).
4. Use sharp blades designed for your work and recommended by the tool manufacturer.
5. Check the retracting lower blade guard frequently to make certain it works freely. It should enclose the teeth as completely as possible, and cover the unused portion of the blade when cutting.
6. Make sure the saw is connected to a suitable extension cord with a proper grounding connection. Conduct a daily pre-operating check and repair or replace damaged cords.
7. Allow the saw to reach full power before cutting.
8. Make sure the lower blade guard is fully returned before laying down the saw.
9. Disconnect the power supply before adjusting or changing the blade.
10. Keep all electrical cords clear of the cutting path. Use both hands to operate the saw.
11. Keep the saw blade guards and motor clean and free of sawdust.
12. Secure the work while cutting.

Regulatory Reference:

Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 16 - Machines, Tools and Robots

Additional Standards: *CSA Standard Z432-04, Safeguarding of Machinery.*

Guideline: *Guideline for Safeguarding Machinery and Equipment*

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