

Safe Work Procedure

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Hand Tools – Snips

- Always wear CSA approved safety glasses or a face shield and gloves when working with snips.
- Select the correct size and type of snips for the job.
- Use the proper tool for the job. There are four kinds of snips:
 - Left cut snips – for making cuts to left as well as straight cuts
 - Right cut snips – for making cuts to the right as well as straight cuts.
 - Straight cut snips – are for making straight cuts as well as shallow cuts to the right or left.
 - Offset snips – permit you to keep your hands above the cut while cutting directly through the centre of a large sheet.
- Use snips for cutting soft metal only. Hard or hardened metal should be cut with cutting tools.
- Use hand pressure for cutting. Never hammer, or use your foot to exert extra pressure on the cutting edges. If extra pressure is needed, use a larger tool.
- Cut so that the waste is on the right if you are right handed.
- Avoid springing the blades. This results from trying to cut metal that is too thick or heavy for the snips you are using.
- Keep the nut and the pivot bolt properly adjusted at all times.
- Oil the pivot bolt on the snips occasionally.
- Do not try to cut sharp curves with straight cut snips.
- Do not cut sheet metal thicker than .15cm (0.062 in) with snips.
- Do not extend the length of handles to secure greater leverage.
- Do not attempt to sharpen snips in a sharpening device designed for scissors, garden tools or cutlery.
- Do not use cushion grips for jobs requiring insulated handles. They are for comfort primarily and not for protection against electric shock.