

Safe Work Procedure

Mar. 2010

Radial Arm Saws

- Always wear CSA approved personal protection equipment (PPE), when using the radial arm saw and any other saw.
- Feed stock against the direction of the blade.
- Use only saw blades rated at or above the speed of the saw arbor.
- Ensure guard consists of two parts:
 - Upper hood type that covers arbor
 - Lower guard which rides on the stock, adjusting automatically to the thickness being cut
- Use only accessories designed for the specific saw and application
- Stand on the handle side when crosscutting, pull the cutting head with the hand nearest the handle, and maneuver the stock with the other hand.
- Return cutting head completely back of the saw behind the fence after each cut.
- Ensure when ripping that stock is fed against the blade from the side where the blade rotates upward toward the operator. The blade should extend slightly into the table. The motor head must be locked at the correct height and angle.
- Clamp stock to the table on one side of the saw blade when making mitre, bevel or compound mitre cuts. This overcomes the tendency of the stock to slide along the fence during the cut.
- Turn off saw when making any adjustments or changes in set up.

Radial Arm Saws – continued

- Measure by placing stock to be cut against the stop gauge. In instances where it is necessary to measure with a ruler, turn off the saw until measuring is completed.
- Do not use radial arm saws for ripping unless spreader and anti kickback devices are provided and properly adjusted.
- Do not remove your hand from the operating handle, unless cutting head is behind the fence.
- Do not remove stock from saw table until the blade has been returned to its position at the rear of the table. Use a stick or brush to remove scrap from the saw table.
- Do not cut “free hand”, the stock should be solidly on the table against the back guide.
- Do not use cracked or dull saw blades.

Radial arm saws can be dangerous if not used properly. Always read the owners manual carefully prior to use. Always wear proper and CSA approved Personal Protection Equipment. (PPE).