



Melville Group of The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc.)

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE BANDSAW

SAFETY ASPECTS

- ✓ Do not use this machine unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation.
- ✓ Safety glasses must be worn at ALL times by the operator and any other person in the near vicinity of the bandsaw.
- ✓ Covered footwear must be worn at ALL times in the work area.
- ✓ Long or loose hair must be contained.
- ✓ Clothing must be close fitting.
- ✓ The bandsaw must always be operated by only one person. This includes turning the machine on/off, and feeding the timber into the blade
- ✓ Ensuring assistants or bystanders are not at any risk from sawing operation.
- ✓ Always use an assistant when cutting longer or heavier pieces of timber to help support the job.

PRE-OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ Do not use faulty equipment. Immediately report faults to the convenor and if appropriate, tag out saw.
- ✓ Check blade for correct tension and that it is the appropriate type and size for the intended operation.
- ✓ Blades should be changed only by authorised persons.
- ✓ Ensure the blade guide and guard are set at a height no more than 6mm above the work piece.
- ✓ Plan sawing procedures to minimise backing out of saw kerf.
- ✓ Check material for foreign materials such as nails, grit etc.
- ✓ Always ensure the work is NOT in contact with the blade when starting the machine.
- ✓ Cut cylindrical or irregularly shaped stock using an appropriate support jig.
- ✓ Use dust extraction if fitted.

OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ Always feed material evenly and smoothly while holding firmly to ensure effective control while cutting.
- ✓ Make curved cuts gradually and use relief cuts for tight radius curves.
- ✓ Do not force or twist the blade while cutting, especially while cutting small radii material.
- ✓ Keep hands away from the blade and cutting area. Never have hands in front of the blade – always to the side or behind the blade.
- ✓ Use a push stick when necessary, especially when smaller pieces are being cut.
- ✓ Never brush away off-cuts while the machine is running.
- ✓ Do not back out of curved cuts while the machine is running. Wait until the blade comes to a complete stop.
- ✓ Never leave the machine running unattended.
- ✓ Before making any adjustments, switch off the saw and wait until it stops.
- ✓ Stop the machine immediately if it develops a problem, particularly if it starts making loud noises.

POST-OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ When finished, unplug the power cord and release the blade tension.

REMEMBER: THE ONUS IS ON YOU TO WORK SAFELY