



## SAFE WORK PROCEDURE TABLE SAW

### SAW LIMITATIONS AND SPECIFIC DANGERS

- ✓ Kickback of material is a recognised hazard, and the operator must not stand directly behind the blade.
- ✓ Hands must be kept well clear of the blade by using push sticks or specifically designed “sleds” or holding methods to feed material into the saw. Do not lean over the blade or reach over blade with hands or body while saw is running.
- ✓ All materials must be free of embedded metal. It is recommended that recycled material is only used if completely screened with metal detector for embedded metal. **Cutting of laminates, soft metal (copper aluminium) and plastics is prohibited.**

### SAFETY ASPECTS

- ✓ Do not use this machine unless you have been instructed in its safe use and operation.
- ✓ **Covered footwear, eye protection (Minimum is safety glasses but recommended to use a face shield) and hearing (muffs or plugs) protection must be worn at ALL times by the operator** and any other person in the near vicinity of the table saw.
- ✓ Long or loose hair must be contained, and clothing must be close fitting.
- ✓ Ensure the work area is free of any trip hazards or obstructions before commencing operations. Keep the work area clear of such hazards while working.
- ✓ The table saw must always be operated by only one person. This includes turning the machine on/off and feeding the timber into the blade. Please note that a second person may be needed to support longer pieces of timber as it is pushed through the saw.
- ✓ Material must not be pulled through the saw from behind the blade.
- ✓ Ensure assistants or bystanders are not at any risk from the sawing operation.

### PRE-OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

- ✓ Do not use faulty equipment. Immediately report faults to the convenor or persons responsible and, if appropriate, tag out saw.
- ✓ With the power cord disconnected raise the saw blade above the table
  - Ensure correct blade is attached to carry out the intended task.
  - Check blade teeth to ensure none are missing or damaged and that the blade is correctly fixed to arbour.
  - Ensure sleds, guides and or mitre gauges slide freely through full range of intended cut.
- ✓ Check operation of switch (start/stop).
- ✓ Blades should be changed only by authorised persons.
- ✓ Plan sawing procedures. For full depth cuts, adjust the saw height to 10mm above the thickness of the timber.
- ✓ Always ensure the work is NOT in contact with the blade when starting the machine.
- ✓ Use dust extraction if fitted.



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

### **OPERATIONAL ASPECTS**

- ✓ Always feed material evenly and smoothly while holding firmly with downward pressure to ensure effective control while cutting.
- ✓ Do not force material while cutting. If excessive force is required, STOP, and determine the reason for the resistance and adjust methods to resolve the issue before proceeding.
- ✓ Always use a push stick(s) or similar devices to keep hands well away from the saw blade, especially when smaller pieces are being cut.
- ✓ Never brush away off-cuts while the machine is running. Wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing materials.
- ✓ 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 to make loud noises.

### **POST-OPERATIONAL ASPECTS**

- ✓ When finished, unplug the power cord, and lower the blade to below table surface unless specifically agreed that setting is crucial to ongoing cutting.
- ✓ Clean work area and saw of sawdust and dispose of any unwanted offcuts.

**REMEMBER: THE ONUS IS ON YOU TO WORK SAFELY**