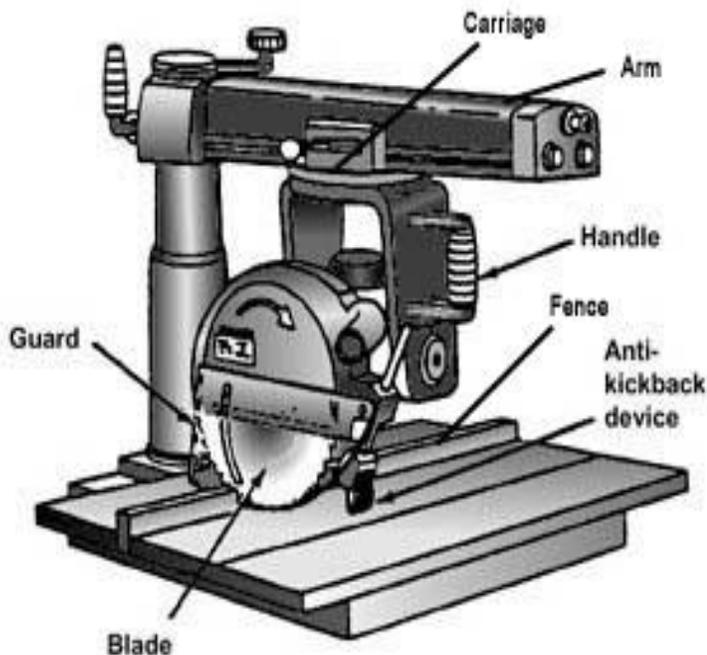


SAFE OPERATION OF SAWS

Operating saws can lead to serious injuries in the workplace. Lacerations, crushing injuries, abrasions, amputations and even fatalities can occur from unguarded and/or unmaintained saws as well as unsafe operating procedures in the workplace. Radial arm saws, band saws and table saws are among the most prevalent types of saws used in general industry. Below are general requirements as well as specific requirements for these types of saws.

GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Keep hands out of the line of the cut.
- Wear the necessary personal protective equipment including, but not limited to, safety glasses.
- Maintain a clean work area. Ensure dust collection systems are properly maintained and housekeeping schedules are developed and followed based on the amount of dust accumulated.
- Always guard power transmission apparatus including, but not limited to, belts and pulleys, chains and sprockets and rotating shafts.
- Use the proper blade for cutting. Blades should be properly adjusted.
- Remove cracked or damaged blades from service.
- Keep blades properly sharpened. Blades should be sharpened by someone with the necessary skill.
- Install and maintain the required guards. When performing maintenance or service on the equipment, ensure that lockout/tagout procedures are followed by authorized employees.
- Train employees on safe operating procedures. Avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing, long hair (not tied up) and jewelry.
- Operate the saws at the speed specified by the manufacturer.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations and operating procedures.



RADIAL ARM SAW

Upper blade guard: Fixed guard that encloses upper half of the saw including the saw arbor.

Lower blade guard: Self adjusting guard that adjusts to the thickness of the stock. Guard should be installed on both sides of the blade.

Anti-kickback device: Installed for rip cuts to prevent material from being thrown back at the operator.

Return device: Returns the saw to its original position when released. The front end of the saw can be set so it is slightly higher than the rear which will return it to its original position.

Limit chain: Prevents the saw from extending further than the front or back edge of the table.

Adjustable stop: Limits forward travel to the distance needed for repetitive cuts.

Warning label: Post the direction of the saw rotation on the hood.



VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL BAND SAWS

Guard: Adjustable guard that can be adjusted based on the thickness of the stock. **ALL** unused portions of the blade must be guarded.

Feed Rolls: Must be guarded to eliminate access.

Tension control device: Indicates proper blade tension.

Pulley mechanism: Must be fully enclosed.



TABLE SAWS

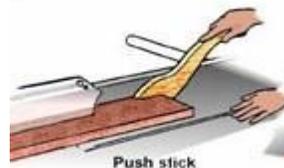
Guard: A self-adjusting guard that will adjust based on the thickness of the stock. The guard stays in contact with the stock during operation.

Guard: Guard the portion below the table.

Anti-kickback device: Installed for rip cuts to prevent material from being thrown back at the operator.

Spreader: Installed to prevent material from squeezing the saw or kicking back during rip cuts.

Push sticks: Use push sticks for smaller pieces to push the stock past the blade.



RESOURCES

OSHA's General Industry Standards:

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owasrch.search_form?p_doc_type=STANDARDS&p_toc_level=1&p_keyvalue=1910

OSHA's Machine Guarding E-tool – Saws:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/machineguarding/saws.html>

OSHA's Machine Guarding E-tool – Saws – Radial Saws:

https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/machineguarding/saws/radialsaws_wv.html

OSHA's Machine Guarding E-tool – Saws – Band Saws:

https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/machineguarding/saws/band_saws.html

OSHA's Machine Guarding E-Tool – Saws – Table Saws:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/machineguarding/saws/tablesaws.html>