

 <b>DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY</b> <i>Inspiring Minds</i>  <b>Safe Work Instructions for Metal Band Saws</b>	<b>Policy Sponsor:</b>  Assistant Vice President Facilities Management	<b>Approval Date:</b>  September 2010
	<b>Responsible Unit:</b>  Trade Services	<b>Revisions:</b>  August 2018

**Hazards Identified:**

Slippery floor, sharp objects, flying objects / projectiles, inadequate maintenance, dull cutting tools, improper set-up, inadequate lighting

**Personal Protective Equipment Required:**

Safety boots, safety gloves, safety goggles and face shield,

**Training Required:**

Before using this type of equipment employees must be properly trained by a competent person in its proper use. The operator's manual must be understood and followed by the operator at all times and reviewed regularly.

Employees must be trained in the proper use of all required PPE before operating this equipment.

These safe work practices must be followed at all times when using this equipment.

1. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper use of this equipment.
2. Do not use this equipment for anything other than its intended / designed purpose.
3. Do not tamper with or attempt to modify this equipment in any way.
4. Do not use this equipment unless you have been properly trained.
5. Ensure that the area around the band saw is clean and unobstructed before starting each job.
6. Do not operate this equipment without the required PPE.

7. If the equipment is hard wired or plugged into a wall outlet it must be set in the OFF position or unplugged and properly locked out as defined in the FM Lock Out Program before any attempt is made to repair, service, clean, change blades, adjust or perform any other activity where an employee may be injured by the equipment being energized.
8. Ensure that the floor area around the saw is dry and free of any debris.
9. Ensure that there is adequate lighting.
10. Always refer to the selection guides in the operator's manual for help in choosing the correct blade.
11. Ensure that you have selected the correct band saw blade for the type and thickness of material to be cut.
12. Ensure that type of blade selected is correct the type of operation to be performed.
13. Ensure that blades are kept sharp.
14. Always maintain proper cutting and feed speeds to prevent blade breakage and dulling.
15. Always use slow cutting speeds for hard material and fast speeds for soft materials.
16. Always set the desired speed before starting to cut.
17. Always use the widest and thickest blade possible, adjusting accordingly for curved cuts.
18. Always start a cut with a gentle feed and increase to optimum pressure once the cut is established.
19. Always use lighter feeds on hard materials.
20. Always reduce speed if hard spots are encountered in the material being cut and increase speed once through the spot.
21. Always use a lighter feed on a curve and increased feed when cutting straight lines.
22. Always cut relief cuts when cutting curves to prevent blade from binding and avoid large pieces of material becoming a potential hazard.

23. Keep hand on either side of the blade and a safe distance from the blade.
24. Never put your hands in front of the blade.
25. Always use a "push stick".
26. Never attempt to thread the blade backwards through the kerf while the saw is running.
27. Replace the blade when ever any of the following conditions are observed:
  1. It is difficult to follow a line.
  2. Except in the case of cast iron cutting chips become granular.
  3. The saw seems to be cutting slowly or not at all.
28. Always pay strict attention to the manufacturer's instructions when using any of the band saw attachments.
29. Ensure that all attachments are properly installed.
30. Ensure that filler plates are installed flush in the table slot.