

Bandsaw Risk Assessment

Medium Risk with Controls - Induction Required - No Lone Working

Key: Who = Who might be harmed?

L = Likelihood

LwC = Likelihood with controls

S = Severity

SwC = Severity with Controls

R = Risk Level without controls = S x L

RwC = Risk Level with Controls = LwC x SwC

Hazard	Who	L	S	R	Rationale	Controls required	LwC	SwC	RwC
Noise	User, bystanders	5	5	25	Can be very loud when cutting.	Ear defenders mandatory for user and everyone in earshot. These are provided by the space. Bystanders must be warned before using the tool.	5	1	5
Flying debris	User, bystanders	3	5	10	Dust and material from cutting may go in eyes of user	User must wear goggles/safety glasses. These are provided by the Space. Bystanders must be warned before using the tool. Eye wash stations provided in space. Extractor unit must be turned on and tool must be brushed/vacuumed down after use.	1	2	2
Dust	All	4	3	12	Many materials that are cut or will produce dust/air particles that are harmful to health.	Use dust extraction when cutting and ensure wood room doors are closed. Dust masks are recommended and provided by the space. Bystanders must be warned before using the tool. Tool must be brushed/vacuumed down after use.	2	2	4
Projectiles	User, bystanders	2	3	6	Work pieces can become projectiles.	Keep the work area clear and use both hands to hold the workpiece. Push sticks are provided.	1	3	3
Snagging	User	2	5	10	Loose clothing/hair could get caught/tangled in the saw blade or drive mechanism.	Tie back loose hair. Avoid loose clothing and dangling jewellery. Ensure tool is fitted with any supplied guards and that saw guard is as low to work piece as possible. No lone working. Tool is fitted with microswitches to prevent use while guards are open.	1	5	5
Changing blade	User	3	3	9	Using the wrong saw blade for a task can turn this tool into a multitude of hazards.	Only experienced maintainers approved by the board can change saw blades. Three band saws with different blades are provided by the space to minimise the need to swap blades. Ensure power is off and plug is removed from the socket before changing the blade. Mandatory induction covers correct blade choice.	1	2	2
Cuts	User	5	5	25	Working with a fast moving blade has a high potential for cuts and abrasions.	Mandatory induction to using equipment covers good practice and technique. Ensure blade guard is lowered to the greatest extent possible. Push sticks are provided for users. Fingers to be kept 15cm from blade at all times. Do not force material through the blade. Use an appropriate blade for the material you are working with. First aid kits provided in the space.	2	3	6

Electrocution	User	1	4	4	Cutting through the cord could expose live wires, though this will undoubtedly trip a circuit breaker and the shell of the tool should be grounded.	Subgroup teams to keep equipment in good working order. Faulty equipment must be taken out of service, reported and then disposed of or replaced/repared. Cable to be positioned away from the blade.	1	3	3
Fire risk	All	2	5	10	Over straining and stalling the motor can cause it to overheat. Trying to cut with an inappropriate blade/material can also cause heat buildup.	Work area to be kept clear of flammable materials and cleaned down before/after use.. Fire extinguishers are provided in the space – use CO2 first, only use powder extinguishers as a last resort. Mandatory induction covers correct blade choice.	1	2	2
Repetitive strain injury	User	1	4	4	Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) caused by exposure to vibration is preventable, but once the damage is done it is permanent.	Watch out for tingling and numbness in the fingers. Take regular breaks.	1	3	3
Machine falling over	User	3	2	6	When moving, balance is lost causing the machine to tip over. Members could trip while moving and also pulling over the machine.	Floors kept clear of potential trip hazards. Members shown the machine moving during training so they are familiar with how it should move.	1	2	2
Machine moving when in use	User	4	3	12	Machine moving unexpectedly during use could cause members to touch the blade/lose control of their material	Members shown during training to test and check base is locked and immobile before use. Sign to be put up warning members trolley wheels have been installed for 6 months after change.	2	3	6

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