**Sample General Safe Work Practice for Circular Saw Use**

**Potential Health and Safety Hazards**

* Chemical hazards; dust (harmful or nuisance dust).
* Physical hazards; noise.
* Machine hazards; moving parts/blades, flying objects (kickback), absence of guards and pinch points.
* Energy hazards; electricity and mechanical (moving parts).
* Work practice hazards; following established safe work practices and procedures, and general housekeeping practices.

**Safe Work Practices**

* Read and follow the manufacturer’s instruction manual and warning labels.
* Wear appropriate **personal protective equipment** such as safety footwear, safety glasses, hearing protection and respiratory protection.
* Ensure that guards are in place and safety devices are working properly.
* When unplugging equipment pull on the plug, not on the cord.
* Keep the power cord away from the blade, heat, water and oil.
* Only use extension cords that are in good condition with proper grounding.
* Ensure that the work area is clear of debris.
* Unplug any broken or unsafe equipment, attach a warning tag, take it out-of-service and advise your supervisor.
* Avoid cutting small pieces of material.
* Ensure there is adequate lighting in the work area.
* Keep your hands/fingers away from the cutting area and moving blade.
* Do not use tape or any other means to bypass the safety interlock.
* Do not hold or fix the retracting lower guard in the open position.
* Do not operate any equipment if you feel drowsy or unwell.
* Do not force the saw while cutting material.
* Do not place your hand under the shoe or guard of the saw.
* Do not carry the saw with your finger on the trigger switch.
* Do not over-reach when cutting material; keep proper footing and balance.
* Do not wear gloves, loose clothing or jewelry or have long loose hair while operating the saw.
* Do not use a saw that vibrates or appears unsafe in any way.
* Do not operate the saw while standing in water.
* Do not operate a circular saw over your head.
* Do not attempt to remove the saw from material or pull it back while the blade is in motion.
* Do not over-tighten the blade locking nut.