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## Sample General Safe Work Practice for Table Saw Use

### Health and Safety Hazards

- Chemical hazards; dust (harmful or nuisance dust, refer to MSDS).
- 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 instructions and warning labels.
- ✓ Know how to safely operate the table saw and stop it quickly.
- ✓ Wear appropriate **personal protective equipment** such as safety footwear, safety glasses, full face shield, hearing protection and respiratory protection.
- ✓ When unplugging equipment pull on the plug, not on the cord.
- ✓ Keep power cords away from heat, water and oil.
- ✓ Only use extension cords that are in good condition with proper grounding.
- ✓ Unplug any broken or unsafe equipment, attach a warning tag, take it out-of-service and advise your supervisor.
- ✓ Ensure there is adequate lighting in the work area.
- ✓ Keep your hands/fingers away from the cutting area and moving blade.
- ✓ When the stock is less than 6 inches wide use a push stick to feed the stock.
- ✓ Ensure a push stick is close by prior to starting the table saw.
- ✓ Always use a rip fence or miter gauge/cut off guide to cut material.
- ✓ Ensure the blade guard; a splitter and an anti-kickback device are in place.
- ✓ Only cut material that is intended to be cut on a table saw (i.e. hardwood, softwood, plywood, OSB, other wood products, plastics, etc).
- ✗ Do not force the material into the blade; use only a little pressure.
- ✗ Do not let a worker on the out feed side of the table saw pull the material or squeeze the split pieces of material together.
- ✗ Do not over-reach when cutting material; keep proper footing and balance.

Please note: This document is for information purposes only as a guide. The safe job procedures (SJP) and safe work practices (SWP) created for your workplace should reflect your organizations processes, equipment and hazards as identified by a hazard analysis. Construction Safety Nova Scotia does not assume responsibility for the use of information in this document. If assistance is needed to complete a SWP and SJP for your organization please contact CSNS member services at [constructionsafetyns.ca](http://constructionsafetyns.ca) or 1.800.971.3888.



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- × Do not attempt to remove the material from the saw or pull it back while the blade is in motion.
- × Do not use the saw table to stack material as you cut it.
- × Do not use the saw to cross-cut long stock.
- × Do not freehand cut any material on a table saw.
- × Do not wear long sleeves, loose fitting clothing or jewelry while operating a table saw.
- × Do not use a saw that vibrates or appears unsafe in any way.
- × Do not make adjustments while the blade is in motion.
- × Do not reach over/behind a moving saw blade to push stock through.
- × Do not use the fence as a cut off gauge when cross cutting material.
- × Do not attempt to pick up any cut off material while the blade is in motion.
- × Never rip a piece of stock that is twisted, crooked, warped or does not have a straight edge to guide along the fence.

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