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

**Health and Safety Hazards**

* Chemical hazards; dust (harmful or nuisance dust, refer to SDS).
* 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.
* 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.