



Band Saw Safety

West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety



Pre-Use Activities



- Review and understand information provided in the band saw operator's manual, specifically the safety procedures.
- Inspect the band saw for damage or disrepair.
- Adjust the saw blade for tightness and tracking.
- inspect electrical cord and plug, blade guides, and support bearings.
- Notify supervisor and remove the band saw from service by attaching a red tag that states "OUT OF SERVICE" if a band saw fails the pre-use inspection. Complete red tag with appropriate information.

Operating Precautions

- Wear proper personal protection equipment when using a band saw, including safety glasses or goggles, hearing protection, and a dust mask.
- Never wear gloves, a tie, loose clothing, or jewelry (watch, rings, etc.) when using a band saw.
- Tie long hair back or secure under a cap.
- Clear the saw table of all materials and objects before starting the band saw.
- Keep hands and fingers at least two inches from the band saw blade.
- Never start the band saw with the workpiece against the blade.
- Hold the workpiece firmly and feed it smoothly at a moderate speed when cutting,
- Use a push stick when cutting small workpieces.
- Never force a workpiece. If the workpiece does not feed smoothly, turn the band saw off and back the workpiece away from the jammed or uncompleted cut.
- Turn off the band saw and wait for the blade to stop before cleaning scrap material from the band saw table.
- Turn off the band saw and disconnect the power source prior to making saw adjustments, changing accessories, or making repairs.
- Clean the band saw table and work area upon completion of the sawing task.