

Safe Operating Procedures – Chop Saw

Last Updated: 26th November 2018

Incorrect use of Chop Saw can cause serious injury.

Do not use unless you have been shown how to safely operate this power tool and all Safe Operating Procedures and Precautions are being followed.



Required PPE – MUST be worn when using this power tool

- Ear Muffs or Hearing Protection
- Safety Glasses
- Dust Mask
- Hand Protection Gloves (not disposable type)
- Safety Footwear
- Contain long/loose hair
- Ensure clothing is close fitting
- Remove any rings/jewellery

PURPOSE

- The Chop Saw is only to be used for cutting metal sections (eg cable tray), metal pipes, and metal bars into lengths.
 - o This saw IS NOT designed to be used to cut wood.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Declutter the workspace.** Ensure you have a safe clear area in which to work free of trip hazards, obstacles, or other people.
- **Ensure sufficient lighting of work area.** A head torch works well to ensure there is sufficient lighting of the area where you are working to avoid eye strain and accidents due to poor light
- **Power cord, extension lead, socket.** Ensure all electrical leads/cords/sockets are safe for use. Keep these clear of the area where grinding.
- **RCD protection.** Power tools should be operated with RCD protection on the supply. Either via the RCD lead in vehicle PPE or RCD protection at the socket or on the circuit
- **Ventilation.** Grinding and cutting will produce dust and metal particles, sparks and fumes. Open doors and windows and try to direct sparks away from you.
- **Flammable materials/items.** Ensure there are no flammable materials in the work area due to the risk of sparks
- **Have Fire Extinguisher nearby.** Have this available due to risk of sparks causing fire
- **Support of work piece.** Ensure the item you are cutting is securely supported in place. Use clamps, bench vices, etc as necessary to ensure piece you are working on is securely in place

ELECTRICAL & PERSONAL SAFETY

- **Power tool plugs must match the outlet.** Never modify the plug in any way. Do not use any adapter plugs with earthed (grounded) power tools. Unmodified plugs and matching outlets will reduce risk of shock.
- **Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions.** Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock. Ensure the power cord is suitable for use in wet areas
- **Do not abuse the cord.** Never use the cord for carrying, pulling or unplugging the power tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.
- **Use RCD protection.** Ensure the power supply you are using has RCD protection
- **Be alert** when operating a power tool. Do not use a power tool while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication. A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.
- **Use safety equipment (PPE) & dress properly.** Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery. Keep your hair, clothing and gloves away from moving parts. Loose clothes, jewellery or long hair can be caught in moving parts.
- **Avoid accidental starting.** This Chop Saw is fitted with a trigger switch that cannot be locked in the on position, however ensure that the saw is in handle lock position and guards are in place prior to connecting to power supply.
- **Ensure machine guards / protective shields for Chop Saw are in place and are working correctly.** Please refer to the Milwaukee Chop Saw User Manual found on the DNA Electrical H&S Intranet. NEVER try and secure the machine guards into unguarded position, they must always be allowed to operate as per manufacturers design.
- **Do not overreach.** Keep proper footing and balance at all times. This enables better control of the power tool in unexpected situations.
- **Metal Shavings / splinters.** Do not remove these while the machine is running
- **Reaching in.** Do not reach in to the danger area of the machine when it is running

USING THE CHOP SAW

- **Operating Instructions.** Ensure you have read and understand the instruction manual for the tool you are using **BEFORE USE**. This can be found on the Grammar Electrical H&S Intranet
- **Adjusting Nut.** This must be tightened before starting to work on the machine.
- **Cutting Blade selection.** Never use cut-off wheels that are damaged or deformed. Always use cut-off wheels according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use ONLY cut-off wheels that are recommended for this power tool and the specific guard. Refer to the guide affixed to the Chop Saw for RPM rating of disc to be used. NEVER attach a saw chain, woodcarving blade, or toothed saw blade.
- **Test.** Check the cut-off wheels before use. It must be properly mounted and turn freely. Perform a test run for at least 30 seconds without load.
- **Sparks.** When cutting metal, flying sparks are produced. Take care that no persons are endangered and no combustible materials are located in the spark flight zone.
- **Interruption.** If the cut-off wheel is interrupted during a cut for any reason, switch off the tool at the power supply and wait until the wheel comes to a complete stop (never attempt to remove the cut-off wheel from the workpiece while the wheel is in motion otherwise kickback may occur). Do not restart the cutting operation in the workpiece. Let the wheel reach full speed and carefully re-enter the cut.
- **After cut complete.** After letting go of the power switch the machine will not be idle immediately. Allow the cut-off wheel to come to a stop before reaching in to collect your work piece.