

Rip Saw

Activity description

Covers all manually fed bench saws used for ripping timber.

Supervisory responsibility

The operator is responsible for the safe operation of this machine, and for reporting all faults and hazards to their section supervisor. The section supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the machine is in good working order, and that all safe operating procedures are being followed.

Potential hazards and safety controls

Hazard	Control
Eye injuries	Wear safety glasses while using or standing near saw.
Hand injuries	Always keep hands well clear of the blade, and use a push stick when cutting short lengths. Keep material hard up against the fence while feeding in and tailing out. Maintain a good balance and correct stance. Always ensures that the blade has stopped rotating before making adjustments or removing sawdust.
Back injuries	Use good lifting practices when handling timber. Move your feet when turning to avoid twisting your body, especially when picking up or stacking timber.
Noise	Wear hearing protection when using or standing near the saw.

Pre-start checks

Check that:

- saw blade is sharp and in good condition,
- riving knife is positioned correctly,
- saw is at an appropriate height for the cut being made,
- guard is correctly adjusted for the size of timber being cut,
- saw starts up and runs normally, without any unusual noises or vibrations,
- stop button is working properly.

Operational procedure

1. Turn on saw and listen for any unusual noises or vibrations.
2. Put the timber in position, hard against the fence, and cut the end with the blade.
3. Pull the piece back, well clear of the blade, and check the size of the cut for accuracy.
4. Feed the timber back into the saw, and push evenly throughout the cut.
5. Allow the saw to cut at its own pace without labouring.
6. Ensure that the tailer-out pulls the timber out in a straight line at an even pace.
7. Use a push stick when cutting short lengths.