

# ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

## SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

### SWP 014 – DEMOLITION SAW

#### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for safe use of portable demolition/cut-off saws at Illusions Australia.

Applies to approved cutting of construction materials using petrol, battery or electric demolition saws; task-specific dust and hot-work controls may also apply.

#### 2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only competent, authorised workers may operate the saw.

Operators must understand kickback, blade/wheel selection, dust exposure, fuel/battery/electrical hazards and safe starting.

#### 3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Eye and face protection.
- Hearing protection.
- Safety footwear.
- Respiratory protection suitable for the material and dust exposure.
- Close-fitting protective clothing and gloves suitable for handling the equipment/material.

#### 4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Correct blade/wheel is fitted, undamaged and rated for the machine/material.
- Guard is fitted and adjusted.
- Handles, controls and anti-vibration components are serviceable.
- Work area and cutting line are checked for hidden services.
- Material is stable and supported.
- Dust suppression/extraction is available where required.
- People are excluded from the cutting and debris zone.
- Fuel/battery/lead condition is safe.

#### 5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Identify material and hidden-service risks before cutting.
2. Establish exclusion and dust controls.
3. Secure/support the material so the cut will not close on the blade.
4. Start the saw using the manufacturer's method in a stable position.
5. Hold firmly with both hands.

6. Bring the blade to the work smoothly and maintain alignment.
7. Use the recommended cutting zone and avoid the kickback sector.
8. Do not force the cut.
9. Control dust continuously.
10. Switch off and allow the blade to stop before moving or setting down.

## 6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Cut unknown material where services may be present.
- Use the saw one-handed.
- Operate without the guard.
- Use damaged or unsuitable blades.
- Twist the blade in the cut.
- Cut above shoulder height unless specifically designed, assessed and controlled.
- Refuel a hot/running petrol saw.
- Use where dust cannot be controlled.
- Allow people into the debris/kickback zone.

## 7. KICKBACK

Contact in the reactive/kickback zone or blade pinching can violently drive the saw toward the operator.

- Maintain two-handed grip.
- Keep the blade aligned.
- Support work to prevent closing of the cut.
- Avoid the kickback sector specified by the manufacturer.

## 8. DUST AND MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION

Cutting masonry, fibre cement or other materials may create hazardous respirable dust.

- Identify the material before cutting.
- Use wet cutting/extraction where appropriate.
- Do not cut asbestos-containing or suspected asbestos material.

## 9. FUEL AND FIRE

Petrol-powered saws create fuel and ignition hazards.

- Refuel only when shut down and cooled.
- Refuel in a ventilated designated area away from ignition sources.
- Clean spills before restarting.

## 10. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL OPERATION

Stop for blade damage, binding, abnormal vibration/noise, fuel leak, dust-control failure, guard fault or suspected contact with hidden services.

Isolate and tag out defective equipment.

## 11. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Switch off and allow blade to stop.
- Allow petrol units to cool before storage/refuelling.
- Isolate battery/electrical supply where required.
- Clean equipment using safe dust-control methods.
- Store blades and saw securely.
- Report defects.

## 12. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate energy sources where safe to do so.
3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

## 13. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Material identity is uncertain.
- Hidden services have not been assessed.
- Dust cannot be controlled.
- Blade/guard is defective.
- Work cannot be supported to prevent binding.
- Operator cannot maintain two-handed control.

**No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.**

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
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