

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 045 – JOINTER

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Safe Work Procedure establishes minimum requirements for safe operation of jointers/surface planers at Illusions Australia.

It applies to flattening faces and straightening edges of suitable timber using a guarded rotating cutterhead.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only trained, competent and authorised workers may operate the jointer.

Operators must understand cutterhead guarding, fence adjustment, minimum workpiece dimensions, push blocks, grain direction, kickback and isolation.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Eye protection.
- Hearing protection.
- Safety footwear.
- Respiratory protection where extraction does not adequately control dust.
- Close-fitting clothing; restrain long hair. Gloves must not be worn near the rotating cutterhead where entanglement may occur.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Cutterhead guard is fitted, moves freely and returns to cover the cutter.
- Fence and tables are secure and correctly set.
- Cutters are sharp, undamaged and correctly installed.
- Dust extraction is connected and operating.
- Push blocks/push pads are available.
- Workpiece is suitable, free of nails/screws and large defects, and meets safe size requirements.
- Area is clear and emergency stop/switch is accessible.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Inspect the timber and determine grain direction.
2. Set fence and depth of cut with the machine stopped.
3. Start extraction.
4. Use push blocks/pads where required, especially for face jointing or smaller stock.
5. Start the machine and allow full operating speed.

6. Feed the workpiece smoothly over the cutterhead while maintaining downward and forward control.
7. Transfer pressure to the outfeed table as the work progresses.
8. Keep hands above the workpiece and away from the cutterhead opening.
9. Do not attempt to remove excessive material in one pass.
10. Switch off and wait for complete stop before adjustments, measuring or clearing waste.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Operate with the cutterhead guard removed or defeated.
- Pass hands directly over the exposed cutterhead.
- Joint timber too short, thin or narrow to control safely under the machine/manufacture limits.
- Joint end grain in an unsafe manner.
- Feed work against an unsafe grain condition without reassessment.
- Attempt to pull a workpiece backward over a moving cutterhead.
- Wear gloves near the cutterhead.
- Adjust fence/tables or clear jams while energised.

7. PUSH BLOCKS AND HAND POSITION

The cutterhead can cause catastrophic hand injury.

- Use push blocks/pads to maintain separation.
- Keep hands on top of and behind controlled portions of the workpiece.
- Never reach into the cutter opening.

8. KICKBACK AND TIMBER CONDITION

Knots, splits, foreign objects, poor grain direction or excessive cut depth can cause kickback or workpiece failure.

- Inspect timber before machining.
- Use shallow controlled cuts.
- Reject or modify the method for unsuitable stock.

9. ISOLATION AND CUTTERHEAD ACCESS

Any access beneath the guard or to cutters requires positive isolation.

- Switch off and isolate before blade/cutter changes, jam clearing or maintenance.
- Allow cutterhead to stop completely before access.
- Reinstate and test guards before return to service.

10. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Stop for guard failure, abnormal vibration/noise, cutter damage, kickback, timber jam, extraction failure or electrical fault.

Isolate and tag defective machinery out of service.

11. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Switch off and wait for cutterhead to stop fully.
- Isolate where cleaning requires access near the cutterhead.
- Vacuum chips/dust and clear tables.
- Return push blocks and accessories to storage.
- Report defects.

12. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate the hazard or energy source 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:

- Guard does not operate correctly.
- Workpiece is below safe dimensions or cannot be controlled.
- Push blocks/extraction are unavailable where required.
- Timber contains foreign objects or serious defects.
- Abnormal vibration, noise or cutter damage occurs.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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