SAFETY SERVICES COMPANY

Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786

Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 144: Table Saws

Introduction: Contractor-style table saws are an essential component in the serious contractor's power tool collection. ***Note: the information conveyed in this topic applies to standard 10 inch contractor-style table saws and does not pertain to the large stationary equipment used in production saw-mill operations.*** Contractor-style table saws are used primarily by finish carpenters and cabinet makers, and are valued in many areas of general carpentry to make precision cuts that can't be accomplished with a portable circular saw. They are used solely for cutting wood or plastic material such as planks, plywood, laminates, particleboard, chipboard, and for cutting-down standard dimensional lumber. Most contractor-style table saws use a 10 inch or smaller blade with the tooth-count determined by the material being cut. Mortise blades (multiple or sandwich blade sets) are used for groove cuts in joinery processes.

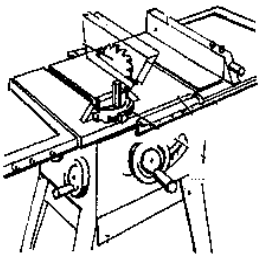
Table saws are powerful, high-speed/high-torque machines that are either belt, cable, or direct driven, and because of the nature of their design and use cannot be fitted with adequate, effective blade guards. Table saws are exceptionally noisy and are inherently dangerous at the point-of-cut and should be operated with thoughtful care. Safe work practices must be implemented and used in order to avoid serious injury.

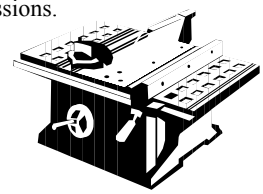
Most table saw injuries involve the hands, fingers, eyes, and face; extensive use without hearing protection can cause long-term audio impairment.

OSHA regulations state: All woodworking tools and machinery shall meet the applicable requirements of American National Standards Institute (ANSI), O1.1 – 1961, Safety Code for Woodworking Machinery.

Follow these safety guidelines when using a contractor-style table saw:

- ***Do not allow*** anyone to use a table saw that has not been properly instructed and approved in the processes of its safe operation.
- ***Prior to its use,*** do a visual and operational inspection to ensure safe mechanical function of the saw.
- ***Check that the electrical*** circuit is the proper rating and that cords, plugs, and fittings are intact and secure. Frayed cords are not permissible.
- ***Check the blade*** to be sure that it is straight, sharp, and the arbor bolt is tight.
- ***Be sure*** that arbor wrenches or keys were not inadvertently left behind on the machine during a blade change.
- ***When setting-up*** the cutting station, it is important that the saw is positioned in a manner that the work piece's point of contact with the cutting edge can be easily viewed without straining or stooping, and that there is adequate lighting.
- ***Make sure the work-zone*** is level and free of trip hazards such as tangled power cords, cluttered material, scraps, stones, bricks, or other obstacles and obstructions. Avoid unsafe distractions by setting up away from high traffic areas.
- ***Ensure the saw's table*** or platform being used is stable and doesn't wobble. Be sure that accessory benches (for cutting long stock) are steady and sturdy; get assistance when needed.
- ***During cuts,*** keep blade speeds at recommended levels; over-pressure on cuts will create hazardous situations.
- ***Never attach*** abrasive blades to a table saw and attempt to cut non-wood or non-plastic material; they were not designed for this type of cutting.
- ***Always use*** something other than your hand (like a wood block) to push the stock through the end of the cut.
- ***Hearing protection*** is required due to the extreme sonic/acoustic levels generated, especially during extended cutting sessions.
- ***Eye protection*** must always be worn when using a table saw.
- ***Depending on*** the material being cut, a dust mask may be required. Wear clothing appropriate with table saw use; avoid long, loose shirtsleeves, neckwear, or untied long hair.
- ***If any operational*** problems are noted, remove the saw from service and get it repaired immediately.
- ***Allow only*** qualified personnel to make repairs to the saw.
- ***Proper care*** and maintenance should be given to the saw. Damage usually occurs during careless transport, handling, and storage of the tool.





Conclusion: Table saws are an excellent accessory to any woodworking operation. But if good sense and caution are not used, a 10 inch carbide tipped blade doing ten thousand RPM can result in serious injury. Follow these safety guidelines to avoid hazardous situations.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

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Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures: ***(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)***

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Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.