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## **CIRCULAR SAWS – HANDHELD**

This TBT must not be used as a substitute for formal training in the use of handheld circular saws. It should serve only as a reminder of training previously received. In appropriate circumstances, the equipment being discussed should be demonstrated.

1. Handheld circular saws can only be operated by persons trained and authorised to do so.
2. Ensure there is no loose clothing, and long hair tied back, which could get caught up in the saw.
3. Before use, ensure: -
  - a. The machine and plug are compatible with the supply
  - b. Leads, plug and switch are undamaged
  - c. The correct type of blade is fitted for the work to be done
  - d. The blade is sharp and in good condition
  - e. The blade is effectively guarded, above and below the shoe plate
  - f. The spring-loaded bottom guard functions correctly
  - g. The blade is securely fitted to rotate in the correct direction
  - h. The blade is adjusted to the correct depth and angle, with teeth projecting just through the underneath of the material
4. Ensure that material to be cut is properly supported.
5. Use fence or straight edge as a guide.
6. Ensure that clamps do not impede movement of the saw.
7. Ensure there is sufficient length of cable. N/A if battery powered.



8. Take up the correct stance – behind and in line with the saw.
9. Ensure the working area is free of obstructions.
10. Keep fingers well away from the saw blade.
11. Report any defect in the equipment or the system of work and stop working immediately.