

## Technology Program – Woodworking Shops

### Safe Operating Procedures

### Band Saw

#### Hazards

- Finger/Limb Amputation – from saw blade while feeding wood
- Eye Injury – from flying wood debris

#### Personal Protective Equipment

- Safety glasses, CSA approved
- NIOSH approved dust mask
- CSA Certified footwear

#### Precautions

- Never leave the machine running unattended.
- Never remove or disable the blade guard
- Make sure the blade is sharp, under good tension, and is tracking/running freely in the upper and lower guide rollers.
- Keep the upper guide less than 0.5 cm (1/4 in) from the wood
- Operate the saw from the front, never from the side
- Make sure the blade is running to full speed before beginning a cut
- Before beginning cuts, adjust the setup if needed with the machine Off.
- Before cutting, check the wood stock for foreign objects or loose knots, or any other obstruction
- Plan cuts carefully, the saw blade curves gradually. Sudden twists will cause the blade to bind or break, sending bits flying at high speed. Use relief cuts to ease the cut angles.
- Use both hands and keep fingers at least 10 cm (4 in) from the blade at all times.
- Always make short cuts first. Avoid backing out of cuts with the power on, as this will cause the blade to come off the drive wheel
- Cut on the waste side of your line, leaving the pattern line on the work
- Hold stock firmly and flat on the table to prevent stock from turning and drawing your fingers against the blade
- Do not cut cylindrical wood stock without the use of a V-block clamp
- Never try to cut very small wood stock
- Remove scrap pieces from the table only with a push stick or after the blade has come to a stop.

**IF IN DOUBT – ASK FOR HELP**