Drop-saw Safety Accreditation notes

Revised December 2014

Note: Accreditation should be viewed as the start of a learning experience, not the end. Continue to learn as much as you can about setting up and using each item of equipment. By increasing your knowledge, you will reduce the chance of an accident and get better results. If you are unsure of any aspect of use, ask an experienced operator.

Safety

1. Hearing protection and safety glasses or face shield must be worn.
2. Avoid loose clothing and tie up long hair.
3. Always clamp the work. If the piece of timber is too short to clamp, it should not be sawn on this machine. Alternatively, it can be cross cut on the table saw, by hand in the mitre box saw or on a bench hook.
4. Ensure that the dust extractor/vacuum is set to AUTO and connected up to the outlet of the saw.
5. Keep the floor area around the saw clear of obstructions.
6. If unsure of any operation, ask an experienced operator for assistance.

Sliding compound mitre saw components

1. A sliding compound mitre saw (or 'drop saw' for short) is fitted with a guard which is only released when lowering the blade.
2. The blade can be angled to the left or right, and the whole assembly can be tilted from side to side, in order to make cuts at various angles. To change the angle, lift the double lever at the front and set to the desired angle. There is a series of detents for the commonly used angles, but the saw can be stopped at any angle in between. To set the sideway tilt, lift the black flap at the rear around the green knob, and set the angle (left or right) by the semicircular protractor at the rear and close the back flap to lock the saw in position.
3. The saw can be set to cut grooves or trenches.

Before you start

1. Read the user's manual. The important instructions are reproduced on a series of cards in the clear holder on the wall to the left of the saw.
2. Check timber for metal inclusions and clean with a stiff brush if necessary
3. Switch on at the wall socket. This will also activate the lights to illuminate the work.

Operation

1. Grasp the handle. The trigger releases the saw to be lowered and allows the guard to raise and clear the work. The button above the trigger switches on the saw.
2. Place the timber to be cut firmly against the fence and clamp it. The clamp is operated by pressing down the black knob and pressing down the green lever away from you. The clamp may be attached on the left or the right. By turning it away from the operator, it can be lifted out and placed in the hole on the other side. If the piece to be cut is too short to be clamped, use an alternative method of cutting (see Safety #3).

3. It is easier and safer to check the blade by lowering it against your marked line before switching on. Adjust as required and reclamp.
4. Pull the saw towards you, lower it and make the cut by pushing away from you.
5. Do not use excessive force to push timber too hard or fast. Pushing too fast will cause the blade to overheat and blunt it more rapidly. The best quality cuts are produced through a combination of a sharp blade and a slow feed rate.
6. Keep the body and face to one side of the saw blade out of the line of a possible kickback.
7. Wait until the blade has completely stopped before removing the waste or the work.
8. In order to make a trenching cut i.e. not a through cut, use the green lever to the right and rear of the assembly. Pull the lever towards you and with the saw lowered turn the knob so that the blade stops at the height required above the table. When you have finished the cut, return the lever to the upright position.
9. As in the case of any machine, do not leave the saw running unattended. Turn the power off and make sure the machine has stopped running before leaving the area.

When you have finished your job

Clean up all sawdust and offcuts. Offcuts should be placed in the bin provided and when that is close to being full, can be emptied into the trailer. Sawdust should be swept up and the area vacuumed with the large vacuum on wheels.

Additional information

The link below outlines the use of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety material and is a good source of information. Canadian Centre for OH&S