

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C188: Power Planers

Introduction: Power planers are extremely high speed machines often operating in excess of 30,000 RPM. They are designed to remove excess wood from stock and can easily injure the careless operator. Injury accidents associated with power planers include severe lacerations, amputations, and eye injuries. These injuries can be reduced or eliminated by following these safety rules:

Safety Requirements for Power Woodworking Tools:

- Employers must ensure that workers who operate power planers are trained in proper and safe operation.
- Always wear safety glasses or a face shield when operating power planers. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry.
- All electrical woodworking machines must be properly grounded.
- Machines designed for a fixed location must be securely anchored to prevent walking or moving.
- Fences must be constructed so they can be secured to the table without changing their alignment with the cutting head.
- Combs (feather boards) or suitable jigs must be provided at the workplace for use when a standard guard cannot be used, as in dadoing, grooving, jointing, moulding, and rabbeting.
- It is recommended that each power-driven machine be provided with a disconnect switch that can be locked in the off position.
- A mechanical or electrical power control must be provided for the operator to cut off the power from each machine without leaving his position at the point of operation.
- Power controls and operating controls should be located within easy reach of the operator while he is at his regular work location, making it unnecessary for him to reach over the cutter to make adjustments.
- On machines operated by electric motors, positive means must be provided to keep such devices from operating, and proper lockout/tagout procedures used while repairs or adjustments are being made to the machines they control.
- Do not force material through the planer; it will result in poor quality work, possible damage to the machine, and possible injury to the operator. If material becomes jammed in the planer, turn off the machine before attempting to free the material.
- When power operated tools are designed to accommodate guards, they must never be removed or made inoperable.

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Specific Safety Rules for Power Planers and Jointers:

- Each hand-fed planer and jointer with a horizontal head must be equipped with a cylindrical cutting head, the knife projection of which cannot exceed one-eighth inch beyond the cylindrical body of the head.
- The opening in the table must be kept as small as possible. The clearance between the edge of the rear table and the cutter head must not be more than one eighth inch. The table throat opening must not be more than 2-1/2 inches when tables are set or aligned with each other for zero cut.
- Each hand-fed planer or jointer with a horizontal cutting head must have an automatic guard which will cover all of the head on the working side of the fence or gage. The guard must automatically adjust itself to cover the unused portion of the head and remain in contact with the material at all times. A guard must cover the head in back of the gage or fence.
- All automatic feed planers must have the feed mechanism guarded to prevent contact with the operator.
- Each wood jointer with vertical head must have an exhaust hood or other guard arranged to completely enclose the revolving head, except for a slot of such width as may be necessary for the application of the material to be jointed.

Conclusion: Before using power planers always check your wood stock for loose knots, nails, or any other metal which might be embedded in the wood. Check your planer for loose or damaged blades; if blades are chipped, nicked, or cracked, there is an increased risk of injury if they are not replaced.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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