

12.10.24

# CUT-OFF SAW SAFETY POLICY

## KNOW THE DANGERS BEFORE YOU CUT!

Exhibit 3.QQ.001

### Cut-Off Saws

Before using or assigning someone to operate a cut-off saw, it's crucial that all operators are thoroughly familiar with the saw's specific operating characteristics. Different manufacturers and models may vary, but all cut-off saws can be dangerous if not used correctly or by someone who has not been properly trained.



## DO NOT RUSH

Trying to save a few seconds can have catastrophic consequences. A cut-off saw can do a lot of damage in those few seconds.

### BLADES: A CRITICAL COMPONENT

It is imperative to use the correct blade for the task at hand for its safe operation. Using the wrong blade, or one that is damaged, can lead to serious injury or death. Always inspect the blade before use.

Common issues to look for include:

- Cracks
- Missing teeth
- Irregular or worn cutting edges
- Warped or unevenly worn blades

If any of these issues are found, **immediately remove the blade from service.**

### TYPES OF BLADES

Exhibit 3.QQ.002

#### Diamond Blades

Used for cutting materials like asphalt, concrete, stone, clay brick, and pipe. They are designed specifically for their intended use and the saw's RPMs.

- Blades with more teeth produce a smoother cut.
- Fewer teeth result in more aggressive cuts, which may cause vibration and uneven cutting as well as bigger chunks.
- Ensure adequate water is used when working with diamond blades.



Exhibit 3.QQ.003

#### Abrasive Blades

Suitable for cutting asphalt, concrete, stone, ductile cast iron, and steel. These blades are designed for cutting, not grinding. Never apply pressure to the side of the blade.

- **Aluminum oxide** blades are for metal; **silicon carbide** blades are for concrete.
- Check blade labels carefully to ensure the correct type is being used.
- Be mindful of whether the blade is designed for wet or dry use.



Always check the blade label for the maximum RPM and the material it is intended to cut.

There are several different types of abrasive discs. Two of the more common blades are aluminum oxide for metal and silicon carbide for concrete. They look very similar, so it is important to read the label. Composite blades come in both wet and dry versions. Make sure you know whether water is needed or not.

There should be a label on the blade, which in most cases will face you as you put the blade on the saw. On the label is a combination of letters and numbers that indicate the material best suited for the blade. You may have to reference the blade manufacturer's information for proper blade selection. The label will tell you the maximum RPM to be used with that blade.

### BEFORE USING THE SAW

- **Clear the area:** Ensure the work area is free from obstacles, pits, combustible materials or gases, tripping hazards, uneven ground, ice, and snow.
- **Never work alone:** Have a coworker nearby in case assistance is needed but keep a safe distance to avoid injury from flying debris or noise.
- **Have a first aid kit:** Ensure that a stocked first aid kit is readily accessible.

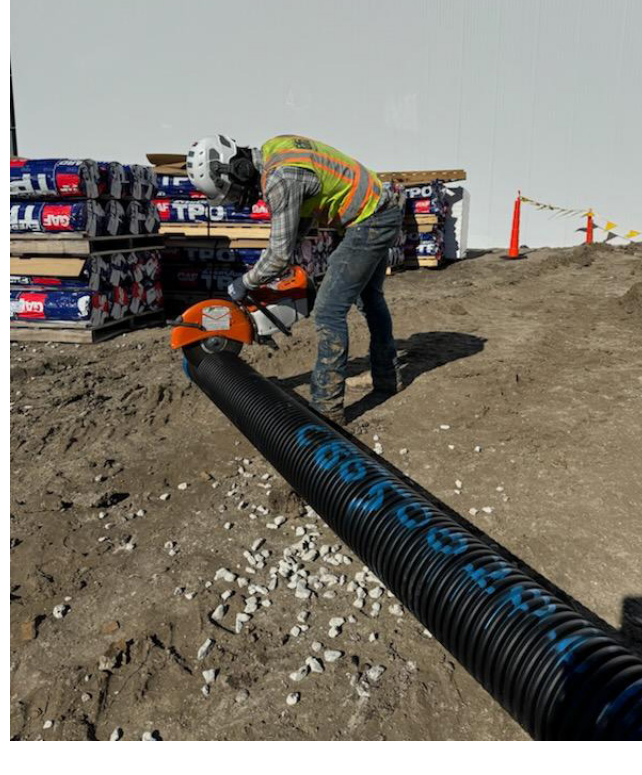
### WATCH FOR HAZARDS

- **Gas-powered saws:** These produce exhaust fumes, unburnt hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide, which can accumulate in confined spaces. Always ensure proper ventilation. If you feel dizzy, sick, or disoriented, stop working immediately.
- **Avoid using saws in confined spaces:** Do not use the saw inside pipes or containers unless you're sure they don't contain volatile or flammable gases. Air monitoring may be required.
- **Objects may shift:** Small blocks, rebar, or round pipes can jam the cutting wheel. Ensure all objects are properly supported and choked to prevent movement during the cut.
- **Object must be supported:** The cut must remain open during and after the cut is made. The cutting wheel must be guided straight in the cut, without wedging. Never exert lateral pressure on the cutting wheel.
- While in use, the saw will want to move forward and pull away from the user when the cutting wheel touches the surface.

Exhibit 3.QQ.004

### Operating the Saw

- **Start safely:** Always start the saw on the ground or on a stable surface. Do not "drop-start" the saw.
- **Avoid standing in line with the cutting wheel.**
- **Check behind you:** Before cutting, check the area behind you to avoid throwing sparks or debris into coworkers or flammable materials.
- **No overreaching:** Do not lean over the cutting wheel or work above shoulder height.
- **Use both hands:** Always operate the saw with both hands, never one-handed.
- **Let the blade do the work:** Do not force the saw. Never push down on the saw; let the blade do the cutting. If the blade is not cutting, stop the saw and check the blade for replacement.
- **Never touch the blade:** Under no circumstances should you touch a rotating cutting wheel.
- **Turn the saw off when not in use:** Never leave the saw running unattended. Only place it on the ground after the engine is off and the blade has stopped spinning.
- **Regularly inspect the blade:** If you notice increased vibration, chattering, or reduced cutting time, the blade may need to be replaced.



### CUTTING TECHNIQUES

- **Plan your cuts:** Always decide on the cutting direction before starting. If needed, grind a groove along the line to avoid cutting reinforcement.
- **Small cuts are safer:** Make several smaller cuts (no deeper than 2 inches each) using a back-and-forth motion rather than trying to cut deeply all at once.
- **Handling heavy parts:** Before making the final separation, assess how heavy the part is and how you will move it once cut. Ensure the part is not under tension before cutting.

### PREVENT KICKBACK

Cut-off saws, like chainsaws, are prone to kickback – a sudden, uncontrolled movement of the saw towards the operator. Kickback can happen if the cutting wheel becomes jammed or is abruptly braked by friction.

To prevent kickback:

- Always work cautiously and methodically.
- Keep a firm grip on the saw with both hands.
- Never use the upper quarter of the blade for cutting.
- Introduce the cutting wheel carefully into the cut. Avoid pushing or twisting the saw, and always be aware that the material being cut may shift or twist, causing the wheel to jam.

Exhibit 3.QQ.005

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

#### Mandatory PPE for Cut-Off Saw Operators:

- **SmartGuard Helmet:** Wear a Husqvarna SmartGuard helmet at all times when operating the cut-off saw. The only exception is when cutting flat concrete or curbs (due to fit issues with the respirator).
- **Clothing:** Wear close-fitting clothing that allows for movement. Avoid loose clothing that can get caught in moving parts. Consider wearing chaps for added protection.
- **Safety footwear:** Wear steel-toe, non-slip safety boots.
- **Head Protection:** Wear a hard hat with a face shield if there is an overhead fall hazard. Safety glasses or goggles are required, as face shields alone do not provide adequate eye protection.
- **Hearing Protection:** Use ear plugs or earmuffs due to the high decibel levels produced by the saw.
- **Gloves:** Wear heavy-duty, non-slip gloves, preferably leather. For extended use, consider anti-vibration gloves to prevent **White Finger Syndrome** (reduced circulation due to vibration).
- **Respiratory Protection:** Wear a respirator to protect against dust, especially when cutting concrete or stone (which may produce silica dust). Refer to OSHA's Fact Sheet on Silica Dust Control for additional information.
- **Water Use:** If using water to control dust, ensure the blade is rated for wet cutting. Be mindful of slippery conditions when working in freezing temperatures or with water hoses.

