# MINIMUM STANDARD

## Circular saws - selection & use

**The following Minimum Standard is applicable on all projects**

This Minimum Standard applies to Unitas employees and subcontractors.

**Outline**

Circular saws are power saws using a toothed or abrasive disc or blade to cut different materials using a rotary motion. Circular saws are used extensively throughout the construction industry. When used incorrectly there is a risk of serious physical injury (e.g. lacerations, amputations, tendon damage etc.)
The purpose of this Minimum Standard is to outline the safe use of circular saws.

**Pre-start**

1. The circular saw is normally used for heavy and substantial work where 'thick' materials are being used. Where possible eliminate circular saws by selecting a safer alternative e.g. hand saw.
2. Ensure suppliers / manufacturer's instructions are available and understood before use.
3. Ensure that you competent and have sufficient training in the use of the saw.
4. Check the equipment is in a good working condition and free from defects before every use.
5. Check the surrounding environment for other hazards e.g. other people, slippery surfaces, sufficient room to manoeuvre etc.
6. Where practicable utilise a segregated cutting area.
7. All saws must have an up to date maintenance test (battery saws require a test certificate for the charger) in line with Unitas Standards and the supplier's / manufacturer's recommendations.
8. Always secure the material being worked on with clamps etc. on a proprietary saw bench and trestles.
9. Avoid contact with moving parts of the saw by fitting the guards in accordance with the suppliers / manufacturer's instructions.
10. Ensure you have the correct type of blade for the material being cut - as specified in the suppliers / manufacturer's instructions.
11. The mounting of blades must be undertaken by a trained/competent person.
12. Use a sharp blade so you do not have to exert excessive force and replace when worn.
13. Use dust extraction appropriate to the material being cut.
14. Avoid loose clothing and tie back long hair.
15. Inspect materials being cut before use for screws or nails to avoid kickback.

*Clamps securing material to trestles*

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**During use**

16. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
17. Hold the saw with both hands at all times.
18. Cut away from yourself.
19. Never cut while holding the material in your hand.
20. Keep hands away from rotating blades at all times.
21. Never cut the material across your legs.
22. Protect both hands by wearing category 5 cut resistant gloves as a minimum (in good condition).
23. Wear respiratory protection as per the required COSHH assessment.
24. Wear impact resistant eye protection.
25. Assess the requirement for additional protective equipment e.g. Kevlar sleeves.