

Subsidiary Legislation made under s.58.

## **Factories (Woodworking Machinery) Regulations**

**1956.11.08-3**

*Commencement*

**9.11.1956**

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**PART III.**

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**PART I.**  
PRELIMINARY.

**Title and application.**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Factories (Woodworking Machinery) regulations, and shall apply to all factories or parts thereof in which any woodworking machinery is used.

**Interpretation.**

2. In these Regulations—

“circular saw” means a circular saw working in a bench (including a rack bench) for the purpose of ripping, deep-cutting or cross-cutting, but does not include a swing saw or other saw which is moved towards the wood;

“gauge” means the Imperial Standard Wire Gauge.

“plain band saw” means a band saw other than a log saw or band re-sawing machine, the cutting portion of which runs in a vertical direction;

“planing machine” includes a machine for overhand planing or for thicknessing or for both operations;

“underground room” means a room any part of which is so situated that half or more than half the whole height thereof measured from the floor to the ceiling is below the surface of the footway at the adjoining street or of the ground adjoining or nearest to the room;

“woodworking machine” means a circular saw, plain band saw, planing machine, vertical spindle moulding machine or chain mortising machine operating on wood;

**Duties.**

3.(1) It shall be the duty of the occupier to observe Part II.

(2) It shall be the duty of all persons employed to observe Part III.

**PART II.**  
DUTIES OF OCCUPIER.

**Space near machinery.**

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4. Sufficient clear and unobstructed space shall be maintained at every woodworking machine while in motion to enable the work to be carried on without unnecessary risk.

**Floor surrounding woodworking machine.**

5. The floor surrounding every woodworking machine shall be maintained in good and level condition, and as far as practicable free from chips or other loose material and shall not be allowed to become slippery.

**Natural lighting.**

6. Where the natural light at a woodworking machine is inadequate and can be improved by the provision of additional or better windows not involving serious structural alteration or by whitening the walls or tops of the factory or by any other reasonable means, the occupier shall take such steps to improve the natural light at the machine.

**Artificial lighting.**

7. The means of artificial lighting for every woodworking machine shall be adequate, and shall be so placed or shaded as to prevent direct rays of light from impinging on the eyes of the operator while he is operating such machine.

**Underground rooms.**

8. No woodworking machine shall be worked in any underground room which is certified by the Director of Labour and Social Security to be unsuitable for the purpose as regards construction, light, ventilation or in any other respect.

**Fencing of circular saw.**

9. Every circular saw shall be fenced as follows—

- (a) The part of the saw below the bench table shall be protected by two plates of metal or other suitable material, one on each side of the saw; such plates shall not be more than six inches apart, and shall extend from the axis of the saw outwards to a distance of not less than two inches beyond the teeth of the saw. Metal plates, if not beaded, shall be of a thickness at least equal to 14 gauge, or, if beaded, be of a thickness at least equal to 20 gauge.
- (b) Behind and in a direct line with the saw there shall be a riving knife, which shall have a smooth surface, shall be strong, rigid, and easily adjustable, and shall also conform to the following conditions:-

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- (i) the edge of the knife nearer the saw shall form an arc of a circle having a radius not exceeding the radius of the largest saw used on the bench;
  - (ii) the knife shall be maintained as close as practicable to the saw, having regard to the nature of the work being done at the time, and at the level of the bench table the distance between the front edge of the knife and teeth of the saw shall not exceed half an inch;
  - (iii) for a saw of a diameter of less than 24 inches, the knife shall extend upwards from the bench table to within one inch of the top of the saw, and for a saw of a diameter of 24 inches or over shall extend upwards from the bench table to a height of at least nine inches.
- (c) The top of the saw shall be covered by a strong and easily adjustable guard, with a flange at the side of the saw farthest from the fence. The guard shall be kept so adjusted that the flange shall extend below the roots of the teeth of the saw. The guard shall extend from the top of the riving knife to a point as low as practicable at the cutting edge of the saw.

**Push-stick.**

10. A suitable push-stick shall be kept available for use at the bench of every circular saw which is fed by hand, to enable the work to be carried on without unnecessary risk.

**Fencing of band saw.**

11. Every plain band saw shall be guarded as follows—

- (a) Both sides of the bottom pulley shall be completely encased by sheet metal or other suitable material.
- (b) The front of the top pulley shall be covered with sheet metal or other suitable material.
- (c) All portions of the blade shall be enclosed or otherwise securely fenced, except the portion of the blade between the bench table and the top guide.

**Planing machine.**

12. No planing machine, which is not mechanically fed, shall be used for overhand planing unless it is fitted with a cylindrical cutter block.

**Guarding of planning machine.**

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13. Every planing machine used for overhand planing shall be provided with a "bridge" guard capable of covering the full length and breadth of the cutting slot in the bench, and so constructed as to be easily adjusted both in a vertical and horizontal direction.

**Guard for roller of planing machine.**

14. The feed roller of every planing machine used for thicknessing, except the combined machine for overhand planing and thicknessing, shall be provided with an efficient guard.

**Guarding of spindle moulding machines.**

15. The cutter of every vertical spindle moulding machine shall when practicable be provided with the most efficient guard having regard to the nature of the work which is being performed.

**Jig or holder for spindle moulding machine.**

16. For such work as cannot be performed with an efficient guard for the cutter, the wood being moulded at a vertical spindle moulding machine, shall, if practicable, be held in a jig or holder of such construction as to reduce as far as possible the risk of accident to the worker.

**Push-stick for use at spindle moulding machine.**

17. A suitable "spike" or push-stick shall be kept available for use at the bench of every vertical spindle moulding machine.

**Guard for chain mortising machine.**

18. The chain of every chain mortising machine shall be provided with a guard which shall enclose the cutters as far as practicable.

**Maintenance of guards and other appliances.**

19. The guards and other appliances required by these Regulations shall be maintained in an efficient state and shall be constantly kept in position while the machinery is in motion, except when, owing to the nature of the work being done, the use of the guards or appliances is rendered impracticable. The guards shall be so adjusted as to enable the work to be carried on without unnecessary risk.

**Exemptions.**

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20. Regulations 9, 11, 13, and 14 shall not apply to any woodworking machine in respect of which it can be shown that other safeguards are provided and maintained which render the machine equally safe as it would be if guarded in the manner prescribed by these Regulations.

**PART III.**  
DUTIES OF PERSONS EMPLOYED.

**Use and maintenance of guards and push-sticks.**

21. Every person employed on a woodworking machine shall—

- (i) use and maintain in proper adjustment the guards provided in accordance with these Regulations;
- (ii) use the "spikes" or push-sticks and holders provided in compliance with regulations 10, 16 and 17; except when, owing to the nature of the work being done, the use of the guards or appliances is rendered impracticable.