

Combination table saw and surface planer

This dual purpose machine has a height adjustable circular saw mounted under a table and a surface planer, consisting of multiple blades on a spindle, located on the side of the table saw.

The machine is configured so that both the table saw and planer operate on the same drive shaft which means that both cutting blades are operating simultaneously and are turned on or off using a single switch.

Hazards/risks

The operation of the combination table saw/surface planer has the potential to injure the operator as well as others through contact with either the saw or planer blades through any or all of the following:

- the absence of guarding
- inadequate or poorly maintained guarding
- unauthorised access and use of the machine
- inappropriate use of the machine
- unsupervised operation.



Action required

Schools are required to immediately review their holdings of ITD equipment to determine whether they have **Combination table saw and surface planers** in service. Where held, the following apply.

1. **The use of the combination table saw and surface planer is prohibited unless purpose designed guards are in place for both saw and planer blades and operating correctly. (See Note 1).**
2. **The unit is to be disabled and locked out from use unless guards are installed on both blades.**
3. Where guards are in place, the use of the combination table saw/surface planer machines should be limited to staff who have been trained in the correct operation. However, where curriculum outcomes require student use of this machine, schools must ensure that:
 - a. alternative means of performing the task have been explored and exhausted
 - b. induction and instruction on the safe operation of the machine is provided prior to first use
 - c. records of student induction and instruction are retained
 - d. constant (direct) supervision is provided by staff trained in the correct operation.
4. The Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) for the combination table saw/surface planer shall be prominently displayed on or near the machine and be visible to the operator. (See Note 2).

5. Only one operation of the machine is to be used at a time and the operation not in use is to be isolated.
6. When not in use, isolation of the planer shall be achieved through:
 - a. use of a padlock or other device to lock the guard in the closed position, or
 - b. removal of the surface planer drive belt by a competent person.
7. When not in use, isolation of the table saw shall be achieved by lowering the saw blade so that no part is exposed above the working surface of the 'table'. Further isolation can be achieved by lowering the crown guard to the table surface so that it covers the saw recess.
8. When this Alert was released schools were required to acknowledge receipt of this Alert by email to philip.cooper@ged.qld.gov.au and advise as to whether this machine type is held.

The actions detailed above are cumulative and do not affect existing requirements for safe design of the work area, the wearing of appropriate PPE and (no loose) clothing, or for inspection and maintenance of this and other machines.

For clarification or support please contact your regional Health and Safety Consultant.

Notes:

1. Circular saw fitted with a crown guard above the blade; and Planer fitted with a bridge or pivoting, spring-loaded guard.
2. A table saw SOP (safe operating procedure) is available [here](#).
3. A surface planer SOP (safe operating procedure) is available [here](#).