

Health and Safety Hazard Alert

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Router Table and Spindle Moulder Equipment



1 WHAT IS THIS EQUIPMENT USED FOR?

These items consist of a rotating cutting bit that operates at very high speed to shape wood products. Processes include: edge cutting, trimming, trenching, grooving, dovetailing, etc.

2 WHAT IS THE HAZARD?

During the operation of the equipment, the cutting bit may come into contact with the hand or finger of the operator. It may also throw off pieces of material at very high speed.

Other potential hazards:

- Material kickback
- Flying chips and airborne dust
- Noise
- Eye injuries
- Contact with cutter during operation, cleaning and adjustment.

3 WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A very high risk exists where guards and/or fences are removed from equipment. It has been found that guards/fences are sometimes removed to machine “free-form” shapes. The operator (particularly a student) has reduced control of the work piece when machining “free-form” shapes on this equipment.

4 HOW WAS THE HAZARD IDENTIFIED?

Very serious injuries to students have occurred during the operation of spindle moulding and table router equipment. An inspector from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has placed a “prohibition” on the use of portable routers attached to tables **where no guard or necessary fence is fitted to the bench.**

5 WHAT ARE THE CONTROLS?

All guards and necessary fences must be in place to operate equipment.

a) Student Supervision:

Students should not use this equipment unless a teacher:

- is satisfied the student has demonstrated their ability to use the router
- has given instruction on its safe use and operation
- has given permission for its use
- can provide suitable supervision.

Teaching staff should follow processes detailed in the Department of Education CARA procedure

Conducting an ITD activity - CARA

Managing an ITD workspace - CARA

b) Operation:

- Do not operate equipment unless all guards and necessary fences are in place
- Ensure cutting bit conforms to machine specifications
- Eye and ear protection appropriate to the task must be worn
- Ensure cutting bit is secured before operating the equipment
- Cutting bit should be sharp and in good condition
- Do not attempt deep cuts – increase depth of cut gradually
- Avoid machining material that has cross-grain or knots
- Material to be machined with a hand-held router must be secured
- Faulty equipment must not be used
- Immediately report any suspect machinery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

This hazard alert and others are available at the 'Creating Healthier Workplaces' website.