

● TECHNOLOGY: Safe Use Of Fixed Workshop Machinery



The Technician CPD Project was set up in 2005 and one of its first tasks was to undertake a survey of the provision of technical support for schools in local authorities in Scotland. The survey covered a number of areas, one of which was training needs.

It was found that not all users of fixed workshop machinery had been trained in their safe use and could not be deemed as 'authorised' users. One of the priorities for the project team was therefore to develop a course in the safe use of machinery.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 all employers are required to provide, as far as is reasonably practical, all information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure the health and safety at work of their employees.

Employers are also required under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 to take into account all employees' capabilities with regard to health and safety.

It is essential that employees are competent to undertake the tasks expected of them. Proper health and safety training should be provided to employees on induction into the school or similar establishment and when exposed to any new or increased risks.

The scope of the training should cover basics of relevant health and safety law:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

In addition all users should have knowledge of and access to the following health and safety reference guide:

- BS4163:2007 Health and Safety for Design and Technology in schools and other similar establishments – Code of Practice



The following are details of a course that has been developed by the Technician CPD Project team to enable employers to comply with the above requirements.

● Course Title: Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery

This 2 day course has been credit rated and levelled by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) within their Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) at level 5 with 2 credit points.

On successful completion of the course candidates are presented with a SCQF, SSERC/STAG certificate.

● Purpose of Course

The course is designed to instruct candidates on the safe use of bandsaws, circular saws and planer thicknessers. It also aims to instruct them on the safe procedures for carrying out associated tasks such as blade changing and the inspection and cleaning of dust extraction systems.

Access to the course will be at the discretion of the centre but there must be evidence that candidates have undergone training in the use of fixed workshop machinery. This prior training can be either college or school based.

Thus rather than train beginners in how to operate machinery, the course sets out to train machine operators to work safely and provides them with the means to become certified competent machine operators.

The course is assessed. Assessment is by a closed-book written test and by practical assignments under supervision.

● Training Centres

Due to the practical nature of this course the number of candidates is restricted to six per course. At present we have identified only one training centre with facilities suitable for running it. We are currently in the process of identifying other suitable centres in a number of local authorities. It is envisaged that this will enable us to deliver the course on a more frequent basis.

The course is open to both teachers and technicians who are required to operate woodworking machinery in school technology departments.