

The circular saw

It's always worthwhile frequently going back to www.hse.gov.uk. A search for 'wood' currently reveals downloadable files including a very useful poster on the circular saw.

In the website, search 'wood'. Next, select 'Health & Safety in the Woodworking Industry' then look under 'Resources'.

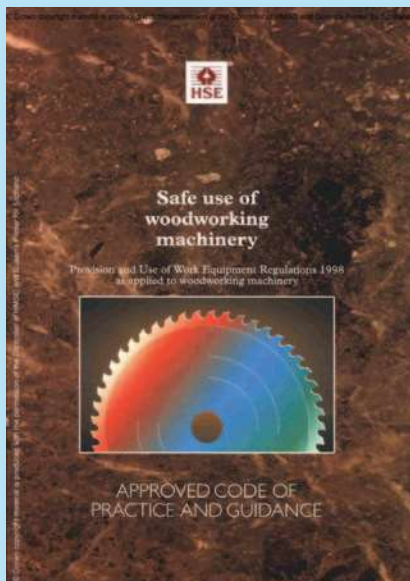


Figure 1 - Approved Code of Practice (ACOP).

Teachers and technicians who have completed our 'Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Equipment' course will know about the Approved code of Practice and Guidance or ACOP (Figure 1). This normally retails at £8 but is available as a free download from this website.

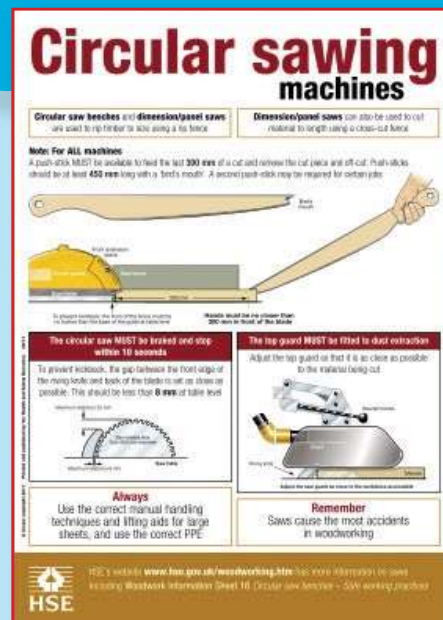


Figure 2 - The circular saw poster.

The document gives useful information that applies to most woodworking machinery, except hand held tools. It's a must for users in school wood machining areas. In the website, look for the 'Information sheets and circular saw poster,' download the pdf poster file (Figure 2) and display in your wood machining area.

The poster contains important information about the circular saw set-up and use of push-sticks, in particular it highlights the correct position setting of the saw fence on modern circular saws in order to prevent kickback (Figure 3).

The front of the saw fence **MUST** be no further than the base of the gullet at table level in order to prevent kickback.

The website also provides a series of 'Woodworking Information Sheets' (WIS) relevant to school machining areas.

There are plenty of free, downloadable resources, not for the department work-base shelf but designed to be put into practice in order to maintain high levels of safety when machining.



Figure 3 - Correct Fence Setting to Prevent Kickback- taken from the Poster.