

Good Practices

Machine Safety: Band Knife Cutting Area

Workers are too often injured in the band knife cutting area. It is very important that safety precautions are taken in this area. Many of the safety measures listed below can also be used in other areas of the factory.

Good practices for the band knife cutting area

- Wherever possible, use machines with built-in guards as these offer greater protection (Figure 3).
- Never remove guards from machines.
- Create safe working areas by enclosing dangerous work spaces with brightly coloured red or yellow railings (Figures 1 & 2).
- Provide proper light signals to indicate when machines are in operation (Figure 2).
- Operators should use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (Figure 3). This may include chain-mail gloves and a dust mask. Chain-mail gloves must fit correctly.
- Regularly provide workers with training on machine handling. Provide work instructions and signage to remind workers to use PPE (Figure 3).

Benefits:

- ✓ Reduces workplace accidents
- ✓ Increases workers sense of security, and may improve work satisfaction
- ✓ Reduces costs to the factory associated with workplace accidents
- ✓ Enhances awareness of safe work practices

How:

- ✓ Rails and machine guards can be built by factory workshop staff
- ✓ Make sure appropriate PPE is available for machine operators to wear. Chain mail gloves must fit workers' hands correctly
- ✓ Implement an on-going safety training program for all workers



Cost:

\$

Low cost

\$\$

Moderate cost

\$\$\$

High cost