SAFE WORK PROCEDURES
WET CUTTING SAW

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Portable wet cutting electric circular saws must not be used unless the operator has received training or has been fully instructed in the safe use of the machine.

2. Appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn when using wet cutting saws.

3. Wet cutter must only be used with a portable safety switch, and/or on circuits protected by an operating residual current device (RCD) or safety switch.

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. Pre-start checks	Electric shock	Check casing for damage, cracks and loose or missing screws, etc. Inspect lead and plug for damage, and that current test tag is attached. Connect wet cutter to power supply and test the portable residual current device (RCD) before using the machine.	If any damage, missing parts, or out of test, **do not use machine** – arrange for immediate repairs. **Do not use** saw without guard.
	Cuts, lacerations	Ensure that guard is fitted correctly, and depth of cut adjusted to suit work piece. Check suitability of blade for work to be performed. Ensure that handles and grips are fitted firmly, and do not move. Ensure that water hose is connected, and that flow rate is adequate for machine.	Use diamond wheel for wet cutting. Replace blade if worn or damaged. Do not use excessive water.
2. Checking and replacement of blades	Electric shock Moving parts Cuts, lacerations Foreign body in eye	**Always switch off and unplug machine before carrying out maintenance**. Place machine on firm, stable surface or bench to carry out maintenance. Use correct (supplied) spanners and tools to undo spindle nut. Use brush to clean dust and debris from guard, spindle and backing plate. Ensure spindle thread is undamaged, and that backing plate sits flush. Ensure that blade speed matches that of the saw, and that the spindle hole matches the diameter of the saw spindle. Mount disc in correct direction, and replace washers and nut in correct order, and tighten firmly with the correct tools and spanners.	Wear **leather gloves** when handling rough or sharp parts. Do not use compressed air for cleaning. Wear **eye protection.** **Do not use** incompatible disc, or disc which is not designed for the machine. Ensure all surfaces are clean. **Do not over tighten** nut.
3. Preparation of work area	Slips, trips and falls	Ensure that floor or working surface is free from rubbish and debris, and that a good foothold is available for persons using wet cutting saws. Ensure that material to be cut is secured and prevented from accidental movement while being worked on.	Keep work areas clean. Provide sound surface to stand on. Wear **leather gloves** when handling rough or sharp objects.
4. Operation	Electric shock Water on floor Flying particles/objects Noise Cuts, lacerations Falling objects	Ensure that the saw is connected to an operating RCD or safety switch. Adjust water flow so as to not allow water to enter the motor while cutting. Ensure that water from saw can run off safely and not affect other work areas. Wear safety glasses and face shield or goggles to protect from splash when cutting. Always allow saw to attain full speed before commencing cutting. Allow wheel to cut at its own speed – do not force blade into material being cut. Circular saws generate high noise levels, especially in enclosed or restricted areas. **Do not mount saw in vice or attempt to use as a table saw for repetitive cuts.** Support work pieces as fully as possible to prevent falling when cut.	Wear **rubber gloves and footwear.** **Do not use excessive water flow.** Wear **eye protection.** Do not stop disc by applying pressure to side of disc to slow it down. Wear **hearing protection.** Always cut away from the body. Wear **Type 1 footwear**.

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5. Special precautions	Toxic dust Harmful dust Kickback/damage to saw	Asbestos based materials **must never** be cut using power tools. Avoid breathing dust generated by cutting of brick, concrete, ceramics or metal with circular saws fitted with diamond cutting wheel. Always check manufacturer's operating manual to ensure that cutting depth does not exceed recommendations for the particular saw.	 Do not "dry" cut with diamond wheel. Use multiple passes if required depth of cut exceeds capacity of saw.
6. Cleaning and maintenance	Cleaning after use Cleaning covers Dressing diamond wheel	Blow dust away from the inside of the saw by running saw at idle. Use brush to remove any accumulation of dust on the base. Loosen clamp to remove cover to wash accumulated dust inside cover. Dry cover on inside before replacing correctly and retighten clamp to secure in place. Use a discarded coarse grit bench grinder wheel or concrete block can be used to dress the diamond wheel – • Tightly secure the bench grinder wheel or concrete block in vice • Cut through wheel or block with diamond wheel to clean it.	Clean saw in well-ventilated area. Do not use compressed air for cleaning. Follow normal precautions for cutting when dressing diamond wheels.

PRECAUTIONS: The following precautions are to be observed in areas where these procedures are carried out.