Bandsaw safety instruction notes

Potentially the most dangerous machine in the workshop. As used by butchers for meat carcases - Cuts through bone quite easily!

Use the appropriate blade for the job in hand – Wide blade for ripping/ re-sawing large stock (primarily straight cuts, Narrow blade for curves and lightweight stock. The blade should only be changed by one of the certified trainers.

- 1. Describe structure of Bandsaw
 - a. Continuous 'loop' blade
 - b. Two or three wheels
 - c. Blade under tension
 - d. Guide rollers
 - e. Machine table
 - f. Fences
 - g. Special jigs
- 2. PPE and extraction.
 - a. Safety glasses or visor at all times
 - b. Dust extraction always to be used
 - c. Dust mask if prolonged cutting of fibrous materials MDF etc.
- 3. Adjustments

Most will be previously set up by workshop cleaning/maintenance team. However, be aware of blade guides & thrust bearing position and blade tension. If in doubt ask.

- a. Use appropriate fence and/or jig
- b. Adjust blade guard c. 6mm, ¼ inch above work piece
- 4. Keep work piece clear of the blade, start the machine and LISTEN
 - a. Clicking sound indicates kinked or cracked blade

Now we're ready to start cutting

- 5. Follow basic safety rules
 - a. Turn on extractor before powering up the machine
 - b. Keep hands clear of blade at all times Use push sticks and guide blocks as required.
 - c. Allow the machine to reach full speed before starting cut
 - d. Feed work piece at steady rate do not force. Any signs/smells of friction or burning stop the machine without withdrawing the work piece.
 - e. If cutting curves make relief cuts first
 - f. When cutting 'stopped' cuts switch off and wait for the blade to stop before backing out. **Never back out of a cut with the blade running/**
 - g. When cutting round or irregular shaped stock use appropriate jigs to effectively support the work piece. Consider making simple jigs and holding devices.
- 6. Useful functions of the machine
 - a. Angle/mitre cuts
 - b. Bevel cuts
 - c. 'Compound' angles
 - d. Cutting Tenons
 - e. Circle cutting
 - f. Use of a template.

