SOP – Table Saw Safety

Pre-Use Precautions:

• Do not use this machine unless you are trained and qualified to use it safely.

• Inspect the saw for damage, disrepair, or missing parts. Make sure all shields and guards are securely in place. If the saw fails the pre-use inspection, notify the shop supervisor immediately.

Operating Precautions:

• Wear proper personal protection equipment when using a table saw, including safety glasses or goggles and hearing protection.

• Ensure saw fences, blade guards, spreaders, and anti-kick devices are in place and functioning properly.

• Assure saw blades are clean, sharp, and correctly set so that they will cut freely without forcing the work piece against the blade.

• Keep the body and face to one side of the saw blade out of the line of a possible kickback.

• Check stock for nails, screws, or other foreign objects prior to sawing.

• Use a guard high enough to cover the part of the blade rising above the stock and wide enough to cover the blade when it is tilted.

• Use guard with a spreader (riving knife) and anti-kickback fingers for all ripping or cross cutting operations.

• The blade height should be set so it does not extend more than about an 1/8 in above the height of the piece being cut.

• Never feed the work piece faster than the saw can accept.

• Use a push stick to cut short or thin pieces of stock on a table saw.

• Never make free-hand cuts with a table saw; guide stock using a rip fence or miter gauge.

• Never reach behind, over, or under a saw blade unless it has stopped turning and the power has been disconnected.

• Disconnect the power source before changing or adjusting the saw blade.
• Do not leave a saw running unattended. Turn off the power and make sure the machine has stopped running before leaving the area.

• Ensure the correct blade type has been installed for a particular job.