

- 16 **DO NOT** use the blade if it becomes overheated as shown by blue or black discoloration. Remove it and replace it with a new one.
- 17 Before making any adjustments switch off or isolate from the power source.
- 18 After adjustments have been made ensure that all tools are removed from the work area.
- 19 **DO NOT** force the tool. An even feed reduces the chances of an accident due to jamming or breakage of the blade.
- 20 When operating the power tool hold it firmly with both hands using the correct handles and stand firmly on both feet.
- 21 **DO NOT** carry the tool around when it is running.
- 22 **DO NOT** leave the tool unattended without switching off and unplugging the electrical supply.
- 23 After stopping the motor allow time for the blade or cutter to stop rotating (if the machine is **NOT** fitted with an automatic brake).
- 24 Vibration from the tool can cause '**VIBRATION WHITE FINGER**' and eventually other damage to hands and arms. Keep your hands warm at all times. Gloves can reduce vibration. If your hands start to feel numb, stop work and exercise your fingers to restore circulation. Limit your time using the tool as much as possible.
- 25 **CHECK** saw blades for cracks by tapping them before you start work.
- 26 **CHECK** that the directional arrows on the tool and the blade match.
- 27 Adjust the depth of the cut so that the teeth just project through the underside of the material. Ensure also that there is adequate clearance beneath the cut.
- 28 **DO NOT** pull back from the cut whilst the blade is rotating, the saw will "kick back" dangerously.
- 29 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.
- 30 **CHECK** that the voltage of the supply is correct. The tool will be either 110 volts, 230 volts or powered by battery.
- 31 The use of low voltage tools and equipment at 110V (CTE) will effectively eliminate the risk of death and greatly reduce the degree of injury from an electric fault.
- 32 Use tools and equipment with the lowest possible voltage to suit the job. Battery powered tools are the safest.
- 33 **DO NOT** use domestic plugs and sockets on construction sites, they are not robust enough.

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When using 230V tools, the risk of injury or death from electric shock is unacceptably high unless the following precautions are taken:

- a) Use RCD power breakers at the supply socket to give protection for both the tool and its power cable.
- b) The RCD should be protected from dust, wet weather, mechanical damage and vibration.
- c) Position power cables where they are less likely to be damaged.
- d) The tools, cables and RCDs should be checked every day (or every shift) using the following as a guide:
 - **CHECK** that bare wires are not visible
 - Make sure that cables are not damaged and are free from cuts and abrasions (apart from light scuffing)
 - **CHECK** that the plug is in good condition, the casing is free from cracks, the pins are not bent or the socket is not blocked with debris or dirt
 - **ENSURE** that there are no taped or other non-standard joints in the cable
 - **CHECK** that the cable covering has not been pulled out of the grips at the plug or equipment. (The coloured insulation of the internal wires should not be visible).
 - **CHECK** the outer casing of the equipment for damage and check for loose or missing parts or screws
 - Make sure that there are no overheating or burn marks on the plug, cable and tool
 - **CHECK** the operation of the RCD power breaker by operating the test button.

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Mitre saws using 110 volts should be checked weekly as in 34(d) above, but it is not necessary to carry out these checks at all for portable battery operated tools.

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CHECK regularly that all ventilation grills or holes on motor housings are clear and free from dirt.

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If the automatic cut-out operates, allow the motor to cool before restarting.

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DO NOT use electrical tools in damp, wet or flammable conditions.

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DO NOT carry a tool with the finger on the operating trigger or button.

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DO NOT carry the tools by its cable or disconnect a plug by pulling its cable.



CPA. 27/28 Newbury Street, Barbican, London EC1A 7HU.
Tel: 020 7796 3366. Fax: 020 7796 3399.
Email: enquiries@cpa.uk.net
Website: www.cpa.uk.net