

1974 No. 903

FACTORIES

The Woodworking Machines Regulations 1974

Made - - - - 23rd May 1974

Laid before Parliament 10th June 1974

Coming into Operation—
All Regulations except
Regulation 41 - 24th November 1974

Regulation 41 - - 24th May 1976

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

	Reg.
PART I Application, Interpretation and Exemptions	1—4
PART II All Woodworking Machines—General	5—15
PART III Circular Sawing Machines	16—20
PART IV Multiple Rip Sawing Machines and Straight Line Edging Machines	21
PART V Narrow Band Sawing Machines	22
PART VI Planing Machines	23—31
PART VII Vertical Spindle Moulding Machines	32—39
PART VIII Extraction Equipment and Maintenance	40—42
PART IX Lighting	43
PART X Noise	44

The Secretary of State:—

(a) in exercise of powers conferred by sections 17(3), 76 and 180(6) and (7) of the Factories Act 1961(a) and now vested in him (b) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf; and

(b) after publishing, pursuant to Schedule 4 to the said Act of 1961, notice of the proposal to make the Regulations and after the holding of an inquiry under that Schedule into objections made to the draft,

hereby makes the following Regulations of which all with the exception of Regulation 15 are special Regulations:—

(a) 1961 c. 34.

(b) S.I. 1968/729 (1968 II, p. 2108).

PART I

APPLICATION, INTERPRETATION AND EXEMPTIONS

Citation, commencement, revocation and amendment

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Woodworking Machines Regulations 1974 and shall come into operation on 24th November 1974 with the exception of Regulation 41 which shall come into operation on 24th May 1976.

(2) The Regulations specified in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 2 to these Regulations are hereby revoked to the extent respectively specified in relation thereto in column 3 of that Schedule.

(3) Regulation 67(2) of the Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing Regulations 1960(a) and Regulation 42 of the Construction (General Provisions) Regulations 1961(b) shall not apply to the parts of woodworking machines required by these Regulations to be guarded or to have other safeguards.

Interpretation

2.—(1) The Interpretation Act 1889(c) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if these Regulations and the Regulations hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

(2) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say:—

“approved” means approved for the time being for the purposes of these Regulations by certificate of the Chief Inspector;

“circular sawing machine” means a sawing machine comprising a saw bench (including a bench in the form of a roller table and a bench incorporating a travelling table) with a spindle situated below the machine table to which a circular saw blade can be fitted for the purpose of dividing material into separate parts, but does not include a multiple rip sawing machine, a straight line edging machine or any sawing machine in the operation of which the blade is moved towards the material which is being cut;

“cutters” include saw blades, chain cutters, knives, boring tools, detachable cutters and solid cutters;

“factory” includes any place to which these Regulations apply;

“machine table” includes, in relation to a circular sawing machine, any frame which supports the material being cut;

“narrow band sawing machine” means a sawing machine designed to be fitted with a blade not exceeding 50 millimetres in width in the form of a continuous band or strip the cutting portion of which runs in a vertical direction, but does not include a log band sawing machine or a band re-sawing machine;

“planing machine” means a machine for surfacing or for thickening or a combined machine for both those operations but does not include a multi-cutter moulding machine having two or more cutter spindles;

(a) S.I. 1960/1932 (1960 II, p. 1427).

(b) S.I. 1961/1580 (1961 II, p. 3207).

(c) 1889 c. 63.

“principal Act” means the Factories Act 1961 as amended by or under any other Act;

“sawmill” means premises which are used solely or mainly for the purpose of sawing logs (including square logs) into planks or boards;

“squared stock” means material having a rectangular (including square) cross section of which the dimensions remain substantially constant throughout the length of the material;

“surfacing” means the planing or smoothing of the surface of material by passing it over cutters and includes chamfering and bevelling, but does not include moulding, tenoning, rebating or recessing;

“vertical spindle moulding machine” includes a high-speed routing machine; and

“woodworking machine” means any machine (including a portable machine) of a kind specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations for use on all or any one or more of the following, that is to say, wood, cork and fibre board and material composed partly of any of those materials.

Application and operation of Regulations

3.—(1) These Regulations, other than Regulation 15 (which relates to the sale or hire of machinery), shall apply to any of the following, in which any woodworking machine is used, that is to say, to factories and to any premises, places, processes, operations and works to which the provisions of Part IV of the principal Act with respect to special regulations for safety and health are applied by any of the following provisions of that Act, namely, section 123 (which relates to electrical stations), section 124 (which relates to institutions), section 125 (which relates to certain dock premises and certain warehouses), section 126 (which relates to ships) and section 127 (which relates to building operations and works of engineering construction).

(2) In relation to the parts of woodworking machines required by these Regulations to be guarded or to have other safeguards, the provisions of these Regulations as respects guarding and the provision of other safeguards are in substitution for the provisions of section 14(1) of the principal Act and accordingly the provisions of that subsection shall not apply in relation to any such parts.

(3) The provisions of Regulation 12 are in substitution for section 3(1) of the principal Act and accordingly the provisions of that subsection shall not apply in relation to any room to which that Regulation applies.

(4) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Regulation, the provisions of these Regulations shall be in addition to and not in substitution for the provisions of the principal Act.

Exemptions

4. The Chief Inspector may (subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified therein) by certificate in writing (which he may in his discretion revoke at any time) exempt from all or any of the requirements of these Regulations—

(a) any particular woodworking machine or any type of woodworking machine; or

(b) any operation or process or any class or description of operations or processes; or

(c) any factory or any part of any factory or any class or description of factories or parts thereof,

if he is satisfied that the requirements in respect of which the exemption is granted are not necessary for the protection of persons employed. Where such exemption is granted, a legible copy of the certificate, showing the conditions (if any) subject to which it has been granted, shall be kept posted in any factory in which the exemption applies in a position where it may be conveniently read by the persons employed.

PART II

ALL WOODWORKING MACHINES—GENERAL

Provision and construction of guards

5.—(1) Without prejudice to the other provisions of these Regulations, the cutters of every woodworking machine shall be enclosed by a guard or guards to the greatest extent that is practicable having regard to the work being done thereat, unless the cutters are in such position as to be as safe to every person employed as they would be if so enclosed.

(2) All guards provided in pursuance of the foregoing paragraph of this Regulation shall be of substantial construction.

Adjustment of machines and guards

6. No person shall, while the cutters are in motion—

(a) make any adjustment to any guard on a woodworking machine unless means are provided whereby such an adjustment can be made without danger; or

(b) make any adjustment to any part of a woodworking machine, except where the adjustment can be made without danger.

Use and maintenance of guards, etc.

7.—(1) At all times while the cutters are in motion, the guards and devices required by these Regulations and all such safeguards as are mentioned in Regulation 8 shall be kept constantly in position and properly secured and adjusted except when, and to the extent to which, because of the nature of the work being done, the use of any such guard, device, or safeguard is rendered impracticable:

Provided that the said exception shall not apply to the use of any guard required by Regulations 18(1), 21(1) or (2), 22(1), 23, 28, 30 or 31.

(2) The said guards, devices, and safeguards, and all such appliances as are mentioned in Regulation 14(1)(b) shall be properly maintained.

Exception from obligations to provide guards, etc.

8. Regulations 5, 16, 21, 22, 26, 28, 30, 31 and 36 shall not apply to any machine in respect of which other safeguards are provided which render the machine as safe as it would be if the provisions of those Regulations were complied with.

Machine controls

9. Every woodworking machine shall be provided with an efficient device or efficient devices for starting and stopping the machine and the control or controls of the device or devices shall be in such a position and of such design and construction as to be readily and conveniently operated by the person operating the machine.

Working space

10. There shall be provided around every woodworking machine sufficient clear and unobstructed space to enable, in so far as is thereby practicable, the work being done at the machine to be done without risk of injury to persons employed.

Floors

11. The floor or surface of the ground around every woodworking machine shall be maintained in good and level condition and, as far as reasonably practicable, free from chips and other loose material and shall not be allowed to become slippery.

Temperature

12.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Regulation, effective provision shall be made for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature in every room or other place (not in the open air) in which a woodworking machine is being worked.

(2) In that part of any room or other place (not in the open air) in which a woodworking machine is being worked, a temperature of less than 13 degrees Celsius shall not be deemed at any time to be a reasonable temperature except where and in so far as the necessities of the business carried on make it impracticable to maintain a temperature of at least 13 degrees Celsius.

(3) Where it is impracticable for the aforesaid reasons to maintain a temperature of at least 13 degrees Celsius in any such part of a room or place as aforesaid, there shall be provided in the said part, to the extent that is reasonably practicable, effective means of warming persons working there.

(4) There shall not be used in any such room or place as aforesaid any heating appliance other than an appliance in which the heating element or flame is so enclosed within the body of the appliance that there is no likelihood of the accidental ignition of any material in that room or place by reason of contact with or proximity to the heating element or any flame, except where the heating appliance is so positioned or protected that there is no such likelihood.

(5) Paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Regulation shall in their application to parts of factories which are used as sawmills have effect as if for the references to 13 degrees Celsius there were substituted references to 10 degrees Celsius.

(6) No method of heating shall be employed which results in the escape into the air of any such room or place as aforesaid of any fume of such a character and to such extent as to be likely to be injurious or offensive to persons employed therein.

Training

13.—(1) No person shall be employed on any kind of work at a woodworking machine unless—

- (a) he has been sufficiently trained at machines of a class to which that machine belongs in the kind of work on which he is to be employed; and
- (b) he has been sufficiently instructed in accordance with paragraph (2) of this Regulation,

except where he works under the adequate supervision of a person who has a thorough knowledge and experience of the working of the machine and of the matters specified in paragraph (2) of this Regulation.

(2) Every person, while being trained to work at a woodworking machine, shall be fully and carefully instructed as to the dangers arising in connection with such machine, the precautions to be observed, the requirements of these Regulations which apply and, in the case of a person being trained to operate a woodworking machine, the method of using the guards, devices and appliances required by these Regulations.

(3) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Regulation, a person who has not attained the age of 18 years shall not operate any circular sawing machine, any sawing machine fitted with a circular blade, any planing machine for surfacing which is not mechanically fed, or any vertical spindle moulding machine, unless he has successfully completed an approved course of training in the operation of such a machine. Save that where required to do so as part of such a course of training, he may operate such a machine under the adequate supervision of a person who has a thorough knowledge and experience of the working of the machine and of the matters specified in paragraph (2) of this Regulation.

Duties of persons employed

14.—(1) Every person employed shall, while he is operating a woodworking machine—

- (a) use and keep in proper adjustment the guards and devices provided in accordance with these Regulations and all such safeguards as are mentioned in Regulation 8; and
- (b) use the spikes, push-sticks, push-blocks, jigs, holders and back stops provided in accordance with these Regulations,

except (in cases other than those specified in the proviso to Regulation 7(1)) when, because of the nature of the work being done, the use of the said guards, devices or other safeguards, or of the appliances mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph, is rendered impracticable.

(2) It shall be the duty of every person, being a person employed by the occupier of a factory and trained in accordance with Regulation 13, who discovers any defect in any woodworking machine in that factory or in any guard, device or appliance provided in accordance with these Regulations or in any such safeguard as is mentioned in Regulation 8 (being a defect which may affect the safe working of a woodworking machine) or who discovers that the floor or surface of the ground around any woodworking machine in that factory is not in good and level condition or is slippery, to report the matter without delay to the occupier, manager or other appropriate person.

Sale or hire of machinery

15. The provisions of section 17(2) of the principal Act (which prohibits the sale or letting on hire of certain machines which do not comply with the requirements of that section) shall extend to any woodworking machine which is for use in a factory and which is not provided with such guards or devices as are necessary, and is not so designed and constructed as, to enable any requirement of the following Regulations to be complied with, that is to say, Regulations 9, 16, 17(3), 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 39 in so far as the requirement applies to that woodworking machine.

PART III

CIRCULAR SAWING MACHINES

Guarding of circular sawing machines

16.—(1) That part of the saw blade of every circular sawing machine which is below the machine table shall be guarded to the greatest extent that is practicable.

(2) There shall be provided for every circular sawing machine a riving knife which shall be securely fixed by means of a suitable device situated below the machine table, be behind and in a direct line with the saw blade, have a smooth surface, be strong, rigid and easily adjustable and fulfil the following conditions:—

- (a) the edge of the knife nearer the saw blade shall form an arc of a circle having a radius not exceeding the radius of the largest saw blade with which the saw bench is designed to be used;
- (b) the knife shall be capable of being so adjusted and shall be kept so adjusted that it is as close as practicable to the saw blade, having regard to the nature of the work being done, and so that at the level of the machine table the distance between the edge of the knife nearer to the saw blade and the teeth of the saw blade does not exceed 12 millimetres;
- (c) for a saw blade of a diameter of less than 600 millimetres, the knife shall extend upwards from the machine table to a height above the machine table which is not more than 25 millimetres below the highest point of the saw blade, and for a saw blade of a diameter of 600 millimetres or over, the knife shall extend upwards from the machine table to a height of at least 225 millimetres above the machine table; and
- (d) in the case of a parallel plate saw blade the knife shall be thicker than the plate of the saw blade.

(3) Without prejudice to the requirements of Regulation 18(1), that part of the saw blade of every circular sawing machine which is above the machine table shall be guarded with a strong and easily adjustable guard, which shall be capable of being so adjusted and shall be kept so adjusted that it extends from the top of the riving knife to a point above the upper surface of the material being cut which is as close as practicable to that surface or, where squared stock is being fed to the saw blade by hand, to a point which is not more than 12 millimetres above the upper surface of the material being cut.

(4) The guard referred to in the last foregoing paragraph shall have a flange of adequate depth on each side of the saw blade and the said guard shall be kept so adjusted that the said flanges extend beyond the roots of the teeth of the saw blade. Where the guard is fitted with an adjustable front extension piece, that extension piece shall have along the whole of its length a flange of adequate depth on the side remote from the fence and the said extension piece shall be kept so adjusted that the flange extends beyond the roots of the teeth of the saw blade:

Provided that in the case of circular sawing machines manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of this Regulation, the requirements of this paragraph shall not apply until two years after the said date and in the case of such machines, until the expiration of the said period, the said guard shall have along the whole of its length a flange of adequate depth on the side remote from the fence and shall be kept so adjusted that the said flange extends beyond the roots of the teeth of the saw blade.

Sizes of circular saw blades

17.—(1) In the case of a circular sawing machine the spindle of which is not capable of being operated at more than one working speed, no saw blade shall be used thereat for dividing material into separate parts which has a diameter of less than six-tenths of the diameter of the largest saw blade with which the saw bench is designed to be used.

(2) In the case of a circular sawing machine which has arrangements for the spindle to operate at more than one working speed, no saw blade shall be used thereat for dividing material into separate parts which has a diameter of less than six-tenths of the diameter of the largest saw blade which can properly be used at the fastest working speed of the spindle at that saw bench.

(3) There shall be securely affixed to every circular sawing machine a notice specifying the diameter of the smallest saw blade which may be used in the machine in compliance with paragraph (1) or (2) (as the case may be) of this Regulation.

Limitations on the use of circular sawing machines for certain purposes

18.—(1) No circular sawing machine shall be used for cutting any rebate, tenon, mould or groove, unless that part of the saw blade or other cutter which is above the machine table is effectively guarded.

(2) No circular sawing machine shall be used for a ripping operation (other than any such operation involved in cutting a rebate, tenon, mould or groove) unless the teeth of the saw blade project throughout the operation through the upper surface of the material being cut.

(3) No circular sawing machine shall be used for cross-cutting logs or branches unless the material being cut is firmly held by a gripping device securely fixed to a travelling table.

Provision of push-sticks

19.—(1) A suitable push-stick shall be provided and kept available for use at every circular sawing machine which is fed by hand.

(2) Except where the distance between a circular saw blade and its fence is so great or the method of feeding material to the saw blade is such that the use of a push-stick can safely be dispensed with, the push-stick so provided shall be used—

- (a) to exert feeding pressure on the material between the saw blade and the fence throughout any cut of 300 millimetres or less in length;
- (b) to exert feeding pressure on the material between the saw blade and the fence during the last 300 millimetres of any cut of more than 300 millimetres in length; and
- (c) to remove from between the saw blade and the fence pieces of material which have been cut.

Removal of material cut by circular sawing machines

20.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this Regulation, where any person (other than the operator) is employed at a circular sawing machine in removing while the saw blade is in motion material which has been cut, that person shall not for that purpose stand elsewhere than at the delivery end of the machine.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this Regulation, where any person (other than the operator) is employed at a circular sawing machine in removing while the saw blade is in motion material which has been cut, the machine table shall be constructed or shall be extended over its whole width (by the provision of rollers or otherwise) so that the distance between the delivery end of the table or of any such extension thereof and the up-running part of the saw blade is not less than 1200 millimetres. Provided that this requirement shall not apply to moveable machines which cannot accommodate a blade having a diameter of more than 450 millimetres.

(3) The requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Regulation shall not apply to a circular sawing machine having a saw bench in the form of a roller table or a saw bench incorporating a travelling table which (in either case) is in motion during the cutting operation.

PART IV

MULTIPLE RIP SAWING MACHINES AND STRAIGHT LINE EDGING MACHINES

Multiple rip sawing machines and straight line edging machines

21.—(1) Every multiple rip sawing machine and straight line edging machine shall be provided on the operator's side of the in-feed pressure rollers with a suitable device which shall be of such design and so constructed as to contain so far as practicable any material accidentally ejected by the machine and every such device shall extend for not less than the full width of the said pressure rollers.

(2) Every multiple rip sawing machine and straight line edging machine on which the saw spindle is mounted above the machine table shall, in addition to the device required to be provided under paragraph (1) of this Regulation, be fitted on the side remote from the fence with a suitable guard, which shall extend from the edge of the said device along a line parallel to the blade of the saw at least 300 millimetres towards the axis of the saw and shall be of such a design and so constructed as to contain as far as practicable any material accidentally ejected from the machine.

(3) In the case of multiple rip sawing machines and straight line edging machines manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of this Regulation, the requirements of this Regulation shall not apply until two years after the said date.

PART V

NARROW BAND SAWING MACHINES

Narrow band sawing machines

22.—(1) The saw wheels of every narrow band sawing machine and the whole of the blade of every such machine, except that part of the blade which runs downwards between the top wheel and the machine table, shall be enclosed by a guard or guards of substantial construction.

(2) That part of the blade of every such machine as aforesaid which is above the friction disc or rollers and below the top wheel shall be guarded by a frontal plate which is as close as is practicable to the saw blade and has at least one flange at right angles to the plate and extending behind the saw blade.

(3) The friction disc or rollers of every such machine as aforesaid shall be kept so adjusted that they are as close to the surface of the machine table as is practicable having regard to the nature of the work being done.

PART VI

PLANING MACHINES

Limitation on the use of planing machines

23. No planing machine shall be used for cutting any rebate, recess, tenon or mould unless the cutter is effectively guarded.

Cutter blocks for planing machines for surfacing

24. Every planing machine for surfacing which is not mechanically fed shall be fitted with a cylindrical cutter block.

Table gap

25.—(1) Every planing machine for surfacing which is not mechanically fed shall be so designed and constructed as to be capable of adjustment so that the clearance between the cutters and the front edge of the delivery table does not exceed 6 millimetres (measured radially from the centre of the cutter block) and the gap between the feed table and the delivery table is as small as practicable having regard to the operation being performed, and no such planing machine which is not so adjusted shall be used for surfacing.

(2) In the case of planing machines manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of this Regulation, the requirements of the foregoing paragraph of this Regulation shall not apply until twelve months after the said date.

Provision of bridge guards

26.—(1) Every planing machine for surfacing which is not mechanically fed shall be provided with a bridge guard which shall be strong and rigid, have a length not less than the full length of the cutter block and a width not less than the diameter of the cutter block and be so constructed as to be capable of easy adjustment both in a vertical and horizontal direction.

(2) Every bridge guard provided in pursuance of paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be mounted on the machine in a position which is approximately central over the axis of the cutter block and shall be so constructed as to prevent its being accidentally displaced from that position.

(3) In the case of planing machines manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of this Regulation, the requirements of this Regulation shall not apply until twelve months after the said date, and until the expiration of the said period such machines for surfacing shall be provided with a bridge guard capable of covering the full length and breadth of the cutting slot in the bench and so constructed as to be easily adjusted both in a vertical and horizontal direction.

Adjustment of bridge guards

27.—(1) While a planing machine which is not mechanically fed is being used for surfacing, the bridge guard provided in pursuance of Regulation 26 shall be so adjusted as to enable, so far as is thereby practicable, the work being done at the machine to be done without risk of injury to persons employed.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this Regulation and in Regulation 29, when a wider surface of squared stock is being planed or smoothed, the bridge guard so provided shall be adjusted so that the distance between the end of the guard and the fence does not exceed 10 millimetres and the underside of the guard is not more than 10 millimetres above the upper surface of the material.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this Regulation, when a narrower surface of squared stock is being planed or smoothed, the bridge guard so provided shall be adjusted so that the end of the guard is at a point not more than 10 millimetres from the surface of the said material which is remote from the fence and the underside of the guard is not more than 10 millimetres above the surface of the feed table.

(4) When the planing or smoothing both of a wider and of a narrower surface of squared stock is being carried out, one operation immediately following the other, the bridge guard so provided shall be adjusted so that when a wider surface is being planed or smoothed the underside of the guard is not more than 10 millimetres above the upper surface of the material and, when a narrower surface is being planed or smoothed, the end of the guard is at a point not more than 10 millimetres from the surface of the said material which is remote from the fence.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (6) of this Regulation, when the planing of squared stock of square cross section is being carried out, the bridge guard so provided shall be adjusted in a manner which complies with the requirements either of paragraph (2) or of paragraph (3) of this Regulation.

(6) When the planing of two adjoining surfaces of squared stock of square cross section is being carried out, one operation immediately following the other, the bridge guard so provided shall be adjusted so that neither the height of the underside of the guard above the feed table nor the distance between the end of the guard and the fence exceeds the width of the material by more than 10 millimetres.

(7) When the smoothing of squared stock of square cross section is being carried out, the bridge guard so provided shall be adjusted in a manner which complies with the requirements either of paragraph (2) or of paragraph (3) or of paragraph (6) of this Regulation.

Cutter block guards

28.—(1) In addition to being provided with a bridge guard as required by Regulation 26, every planing machine for surfacing which is not mechanically fed shall be provided with a strong, effective and easily adjustable guard for that part of the cutter block which is on the side of the fence remote from the bridge guard.

(2) In the case of planing machines manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of this Regulation, the requirements of the foregoing paragraph of this Regulation shall not apply until twelve months after the said date.

Provision and use of push-blocks

29. When a wider surface of squared stock is being planed or smoothed and by reason of the shortness of the material the work cannot be done with the bridge guard adjusted as required by Regulation 27(2), a suitable push-block having suitable handholds which afford the operator a firm grip shall be provided and used.

Combined machines used for thicknessing

30. That part of the cutter block of a combined machine which is exposed in the table gap shall, when the said machine is used for thicknessing, be effectively guarded.

Protection against ejected material

31.—(1) Every planing machine used for thicknessing shall be provided on the operator's side of the feed roller with sectional feed rollers, or other suitable devices which shall be of such a design and so constructed as to restrain so far as practicable any workpiece ejected by the machine.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall not apply to any machine manufactured before the date of coming into operation of this Regulation; provided that—

- (a) not more than one work piece at a time shall be fed to any such machine, and
- (b) there shall be securely affixed to every such machine a notice specifying that only single pieces shall be fed.

PART VII

VERTICAL SPINDLE MOULDING MACHINES

Construction, maintenance and mounting of cutters etc.

32. Every detachable cutter for any vertical spindle moulding machine shall be of the correct thickness for the cutter block or spindle on which it is to be mounted and shall be so mounted as to prevent it, so far as practicable, from becoming accidentally detached therefrom.

Provision of false fences

33. Where straight fences are being used for the purposes of the work being done at a vertical spindle moulding machine, the gap between the fences shall be reduced as far as practicable by a false fence or otherwise.

Provision of jigs or holders

34. Where by reason of the nature of the work being done at a vertical spindle moulding machine it is impracticable to provide in pursuance of Regulation 5 a guard enclosing the cutters of the said machine to such an extent that they are effectively guarded, but it is practicable to provide, in addition to the guard required to be provided by Regulation 5, a jig or holder of such a design and so constructed as to hold firmly the material being machined and having suitable handholds which afford the operator a firm grip, the machine shall not be used unless such a jig or holder is provided.

Design and construction of guards for protection against ejected parts

35. Every guard provided in pursuance of Regulation 5 for the cutters of any vertical spindle moulding machine shall be of such a design and so constructed as to contain, so far as reasonably practicable, any part of the cutters or their fixing appliances or any part thereof in the event of their ejection.

Provision and use of back stops

36. Where the work being done at a vertical spindle moulding machine is work in which the cutting of the material being machined commences otherwise than at the end of a surface of the said material and it is impracticable to provide a jig or holder in pursuance of Regulation 34, the trailing end of the said material shall if practicable be supported by a suitable back stop where this would prevent the said material being thrown back when the cutters first make contact with it.

Limitation on the use of vertical spindle moulding machines

37. No work shall be done on a vertical spindle moulding machine being work in which the cutting of the material being machined commences otherwise than at the end of a surface of the said material and during the progress of the cutting the material is moved in the same direction as the movement of the cutters, unless a jig or holder provided in pursuance of Regulation 34 is being used.

Provision of spikes or push-sticks

38. Where the nature of the work being performed at a vertical spindle moulding machine is such that the use of a suitable spike or push-stick would enable the work to be carried on without unnecessary risk, such a spike or push-stick shall be provided and kept available for use.

Machines driven by two speed motors

39.—(1) Where the motor driving a vertical spindle moulding machine (other than a high-speed routing machine) is designed to operate at two working speeds the device controlling the speed of the motor shall be so arranged that the motor cannot run at the higher of those speeds, without first running at the lower of those speeds.

(2) In the case of machines manufactured before the coming into operation of this Regulation, the requirements of the foregoing paragraph of this Regulation shall not apply until twelve months after the said date.

PART VIII

EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Cleaning of saw blades

40. The blade of a sawing machine shall not be cleaned by hand while the blade is in motion.

Extraction of chips and other particles

41. Effective exhaust appliances shall be provided and maintained at every planing machine used for thickening other than a combined machine for surfacing and thickening, every vertical spindle moulding machine, every multi-cutter moulding machine, every tenoning machine and every automatic lathe, for collecting from a position as close to the cutters as practicable and to the extent that is practicable, the chips and other particles of material removed by the action of the cutters and for discharging them into a suitable receptacle or place:

Provided that this Regulation shall not apply to any high-speed routing machine which incorporates means for blowing away from the cutters the chips or particles as they are removed or to either of the following which is not used for more than six hours in any week, that is to say, any vertical spindle moulding machine and any tenoning machine.

Maintenance and fixing

42.—(1) Every woodworking machine and every part thereof, including cutters and cutter blocks, shall be of good construction, sound material and properly maintained.

(2) Every woodworking machine, other than a machine which is held in the hand, shall be securely fixed to a foundation, floor, or to a substantial part of the structure of the premises, save that where this is impracticable, other arrangements shall be made to ensure its stability.

PART IX

LIGHTING

Lighting

43. In addition to the requirements of subsections (1) and (4) of section 5 of the principal Act and the Factories (Standards of Lighting) Regulations 1941(a), the following provisions shall have effect in respect of any work done with any woodworking machine:—

- (a) the lighting, whether natural or artificial, for every woodworking machine shall be sufficient and suitable for the purpose for which the machine is used;
- (b) the means of artificial lighting for every woodworking machine shall be so placed or shaded as to prevent glare and so that direct rays of light do not impinge on the eyes of the operator while he is operating such machine.

(a) S. R. & O. 1941/94 (Rev. VII, p. III: 1941 I, p. 280).

PART X

NOISE

Noise

44. where any factory, or any part thereof, is mainly used for work carried out on woodworking machines, the following provisions shall apply to that factory or part, as the case may be:—

- (a) where on any day any person employed is likely to be exposed continuously for 8 hours to a sound level of 90dB(A) or is likely to be subject to an equivalent or greater exposure to sound—
 - (i) such measures as are reasonably practicable shall be taken to reduce noise to the greatest extent which is reasonably practicable; and
 - (ii) suitable ear protectors shall be provided and made readily available for the use of every such person;
- (b) all ear protectors provided in pursuance of the foregoing paragraph shall be maintained, and shall be used by the person for whom they are provided in any of the circumstances specified in paragraph (a) of this Regulation;
- (c) for the purposes of paragraph (a) of this Regulation, the level of exposure which is equivalent to or greater than continuous exposure for 8 hours to a sound level of 90 dB(A) shall be determined by an approved method.

Signed by order of the Secretary of State.

Harold Walker,

Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department of Employment.

23rd May 1974.

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 2(2)

Machines which are woodworking machines for the purposes of these Regulations

1. Any sawing machine designed to be fitted with one or more circular blades.
2. Grooving machines.
3. Any sawing machine designed to be fitted with a blade in the form of a continuous band or strip.
4. Chain sawing machines.
5. Mortising machines.
6. Planing machines.
7. Vertical spindle moulding machines (including high-speed routing machines).
8. Multi-cutter moulding machines having two or more cutter spindles.
9. Tenoning machines.
10. Trenching machines.
11. Automatic and semi-automatic lathes.
12. Boring machines.

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 1(2)

Column 1 Regulations revoked	Column 2 References	Column 3 Extent of Revocation
1. The Woodworking Machinery Regulations 1922.	S.R. & O. 1922/1196 (Rev. VII, p. 458: 1922, p. 273).	The whole Regulations.
2. The Woodworking Machinery (Amendment) Regulations 1927.	S.R. & O. 1927/207 (Rev. VII, p. 462: 1927, p. 440).	The whole Regulations.
3. The Woodworking (Amendment of Scope) Special Regulations 1945.	S.R. & O. 1945/1227 (Rev. VII, p. 462: 1945 I, p. 380).	The whole Regulations.
4. The Railway Running Sheds (No. 2) Regulations 1961.	S.I. 1961/1768 (1961 III, p. 3410).	In the Schedule, the items numbered 2, 5 and 9.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations impose requirements as to guards and certain other safety devices for woodworking machines used in factories and certain other places to which the Factories Act 1961 applies.

The Regulations also impose requirements as to working space, condition of floors, noise, lighting and temperature in those factories and places and as to the training of persons operating woodworking machines.

The Regulations prohibit the sale or letting on hire for use in factories and other places to which the Regulations apply of woodworking machines which do not comply with specified provisions of the Regulations as to guards and other safety devices.

As respects guards and other safeguards for woodworking machines, the provisions of the Regulations are in substitution for the provisions of section 14(1) of the Factories Act 1961 and as respects the temperature of rooms, they are in substitution for the similar provisions of section 3(1) of the said Act.

Regulation 67(2) of the Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing Regulations 1960 and Regulation 42 of the Construction (General Provisions) Regulations 1961 (which require the secure fencing of dangerous parts of machinery) are amended so that they no longer apply to the parts of woodworking machines required by these Regulations to be guarded or to have other safeguards.

The Regulations supersede the Woodworking Machinery Special Regulations 1922 to 1945 which are revoked.

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