Sawing

Using manually-fed pivoting-head metal-cutting circular saws

How most accidents happen

- Contact with the running saw blade when:
  - feeding, adjusting or removing worpieces
  - cleaning the machine or removing swarf.

Most **ill health** arises from:

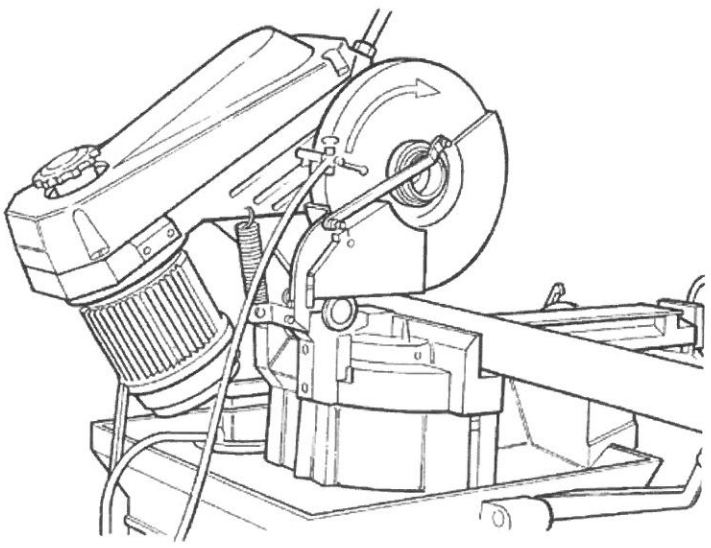
- unsafe handling (see pages 20–26)
- harmful metalworking fluids (see pages 48–50) and
- too much noise (see pages 51–56) from the action of the blade against the workpiece

Noise

Noise high enough to damage hearing is common at many saws, especially high-speed saws for non-ferrous (eg aluminium) cutting.

Reduce at source by, for example:

- clamping workpieces securely
- using noise/vibration absorbing materials on feed tables
- avoiding the use of 'damaged' saw blades
- enclosing the cutting head in noise absorbing materials
- using 'damped' saw blades.



Key safety measures

- Fixed adjustable guards
- Linkage operated moving guard to prevent
  - contact with the blade in the raised position
  - exposure of the blade during cutting
- Gravity operated guards may only be used with hold to run controls
- Where fixed guards only are used, workpieces should be fed and removed through openings small enough to prevent access to blades
- Ensure the head spring balance (if fitted) is properly adjusted.

Training in good sawing technique may help minimise handling problems and noise.

Key references: *Safety at manually-fed pivoting-head metal-cutting circular saws* EIS12 HSE Books (free) BS EN 13898: 2003 *Machine tools – Safety – Sawing machines for cold metal*