

FACT SHEET

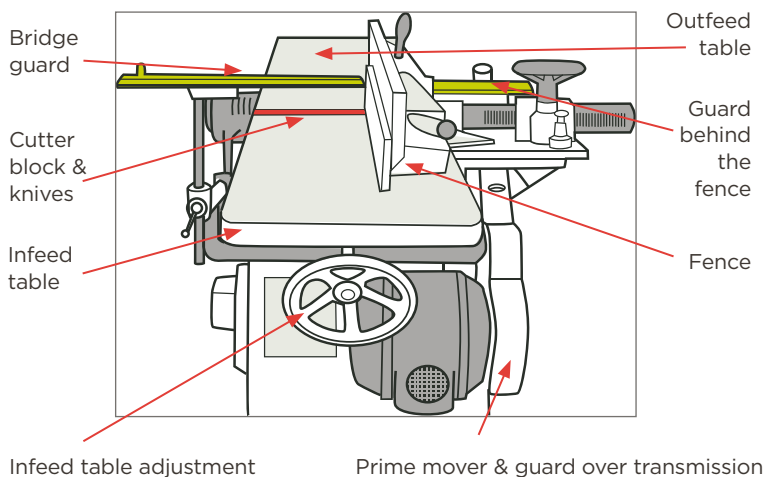
OVERHAND PLANING MACHINES (BUZZERS, SURFACE PLANERS)

Named for the position of the hands of the operator, an overhand planing machine is a horizontal cylindrical cutter block set between two tables, with knives secured in the cutter block. It is sometimes called a “jointer”, because in making flat edges it prepares timber for jointing edge-to-edge to make wider boards.

The outfeed table is set higher than the infeed table because of the thickness of the cut, to keep the timber steady. Timber is passed by hand from the infeed table, across the cutters, to the outfeed table.

Cylindrical cutters minimise the gap between tables. Cylindrical cutter blocks have been compulsory in New Zealand for several decades. Square cutter blocks are no longer used, as they are considered hazardous due to the risk of ejected cutters.

FIGURE 1: OVERHAND PLANNING MACHINE



HAZARDS:

- > Contact with cutters
- > Contact or impact from thrown timber
- > Noise
- > Dust
- > Slips, trips & falls
- > Contact, impact or entanglement from unexpected movement (during maintenance, cleaning & repairs)

PPE:



TASKS - SECURE THE WORKPIECE & FEED TIMBER TO THE CUTTERS

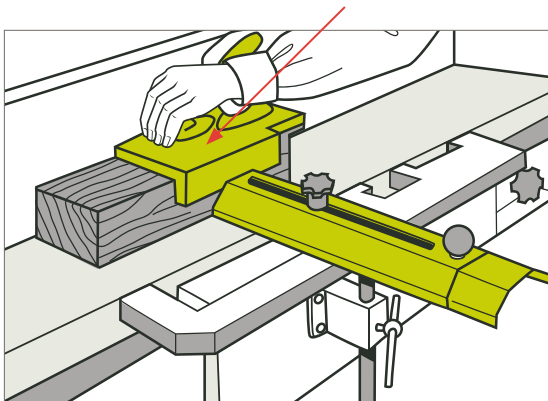
Hazard	Harm	Controls
Contact with cutters	> Deep cuts or amputation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > FIX guarding. > KEEP the opening between the end of the guard and the timber as small as possible. > DO NOT put hands on timber directly above the cutters. > HOLD short pieces of timber with a push block, with handles on the side away from the timber, and a shoulder to push the timber (see figure 2). > If braking time is greater than 10 seconds, RETROFIT braking.

Guarding should include:

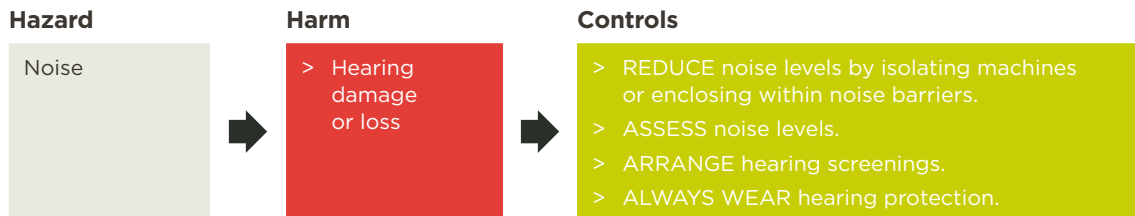
A bridge guard (easily adjusted without using tools) above the cutters, with a width of 1 1/2 times the width of the opening for the cutters. A guard over the cutter block behind the fence.

Hazard	Harm	Controls
Contact or impact from thrown timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bruising > Fractures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > KEEP cutters sharp so their energy is used to cut, not push against the timber. > Present timber AGAINST the direction of the cutters. > When timber is passed UNDER the guard, the opening above the timber MUST be as closed as possible. > When timber is passed BETWEEN the guard and the fence, the opening between the end of the guard and the timber MUST be as small as possible. The guard should be NO MORE THAN 10 mm above the table. > When timber is dropped on for returns, cut-outs or chamfers, there MUST be a backstop clamped to the fence on the infeed table to control kick-back. > POSITION the planer to prevent timber from hitting other people.

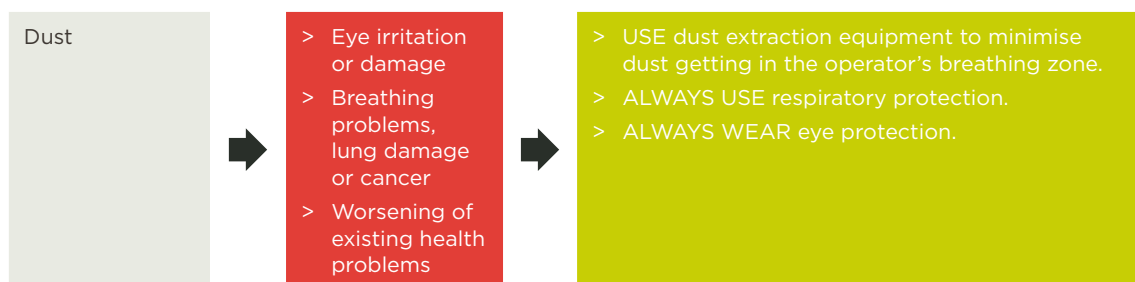
FIGURE 2: PUSH BLOCK USED WITH SHORT PIECE OF TIMBER



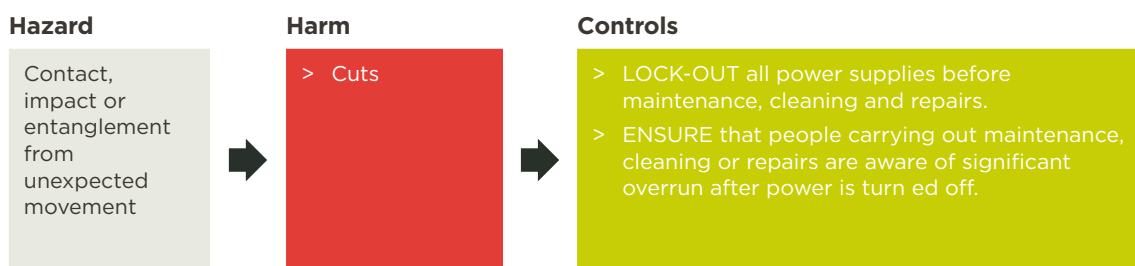
OTHER (NON-MECHANICAL) HAZARDS



A safe noise level over an eight hour day is 85dB(A). An overhead planing machine may exceed this noise intensity.



TASK - MAINTENANCE, CLEANING & REPAIRS



References, current standards and further information can be found on the Safe Use of Machinery project page at: www.worksafe.govt.nz

PUBLISHED: APRIL 2014. CURRENT UNTIL REVIEW IN 2017