

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 080 – TILE SAW

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for safe use of powered tile saws at Illusions Australia.

Applies to wet or dry cutting of suitable tile, masonry or similar approved material with the correct blade.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only competent workers may use the tile saw.

Operators must understand blade selection, electrical/water separation, silica dust controls, workpiece support and isolation.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Eye/face protection.
- Hearing protection.
- Safety footwear.
- Respiratory protection where required by the assessed dust-control method.
- Water-resistant protective clothing/gloves where appropriate without creating entanglement risk.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Correct blade is fitted, undamaged and rated for the machine/material.
- Guards are fitted.
- Water supply/suppression operates correctly for wet cutting.
- Electrical leads/plugs are protected from water and damage.
- Work table/fence is secure.
- Material is stable and suitable.
- Slip hazards from water/slurry are controlled.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Set up on a stable surface with electrical connections protected from water.
2. Start water suppression/extraction before cutting.
3. Position material against guide/fence.
4. Keep hands clear of blade path.
5. Feed steadily without twisting or forcing the blade.
6. Maintain water flow during wet cutting.
7. Control slurry and overspray.

8. Switch off and wait for blade to stop before retrieving offcuts or adjustments.
9. Isolate before blade changes or jam clearing.
10. Clean slurry using wet/vacuum methods that do not create airborne dust.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Operate without guards.
- Dry-cut silica-containing material where required controls are absent.
- Use damaged/incorrect blades.
- Place hands in line with the blade.
- Force or twist material into the blade.
- Allow electrical connections to lie in water.
- Clear jams while energised.

7. SILICA DUST

Cutting many masonry/tile products can generate respirable crystalline silica.

- Use effective wet cutting or suitable on-tool extraction.
- Do not dry sweep silica-containing dust.
- Apply product/task-specific controls.

8. ELECTRICITY AND WATER

Wet saws combine electrical equipment with water.

- Keep plugs/connections dry and protected.
- Remove damaged electrical equipment from service.
- Use applicable electrical protection.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Stop for loss of water/extraction, blade damage, electrical fault, excessive vibration, water contacting unsafe electrical connections or unstable workpiece.

Isolate before inspection.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Switch off and isolate.
- Allow blade to stop.
- Clean slurry/water and leave floor slip-free.
- Store leads and equipment safely.
- Report defects.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate the hazard or energy source where safe to do so.

3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Dust/water controls are inadequate.
- Blade/guard is defective.
- Electrical safety cannot be maintained.
- Material cannot be supported safely.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	SWP 080 – Tile Saw
Document Type	Safe Work Procedure
Prepared By	Aidan McDonnell
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