The Makita Blade Sharpening Machine is a grinding machine that consists of a wide flat grinding wheel which rotates at low speed.

The sharpening machine is used to sharpen knife, plane and chisel blades.

It is a relatively easy machine to use, however, a considerable amount of time is needed to set up the platform guide at the correct angle.

Identified Risks and Hazards

Hazards that may arise when operating fixed wood machinery include:

- moving and rotating parts (blades and bits, tool disintegration)
- movement of the workpiece
- inhalation of fumes and dust particles
- electrocution from power faults, faulty equipment or incorrect use
- burns from hot materials or friction
- hand and finger injuries
- electrocution from equipment or cords
- squash, pinch and crush injuries
- swarf being ejected
- inhalation of dusts

Pre-Operational Safety

- Before using the sharpener, examine the power cord, extension lead, plugs, sockets and power outlet for damage.
- Before starting the sharpener ensure that the wheel, fences, guides and attachments are secure and correctly fitted.
- Always inspect the tool to ensure that there isn’t anything which might damage the wheel or cause injury to the operator.
- Secure and support the tool to be sharpened using guide and appropriate clamps.
When using a sharpening machine the operator should be aware of the following operating precautions:

- Ensure they have had instruction and training in the use of the Blade Sharpening machine and satisfactorily completed the OHS test.
- Seek and gain teacher approval to carry on with the sharpening procedure.
- Make sure all other students keep clear of the immediate work area.
- Wear PPE to protect your eyes such as safety spectacles.
- Do not wear loose clothing, especially long sleeves and neck ties.
- Check the grinding wheel carefully for cracks or damage before switching the machine on. Replace damaged wheels immediately.
- Do not operate the sharpening machine with the guard removed.
- Make sure the work piece is not contacting the wheel before the switch is turned on to operate the machine.
- Before using the machine, switch it on and let it run for several minutes and watch for flutter or wobble that might be caused by incorrect installation or poorly balanced grinding wheel.
- After the correct coolant flow has been established, start the sharpening procedure.
- Sharpen the cutting edge away from the body and hold the sharpening holder with both hands.
- Slide the sharpening holder back and forth on the sharpening platform guide at a speed of about 10 times per minute.
- Use the upper surface of the grinding wheel only. Do not use the side surface.
- If the grinding wheel stops during the operation, makes odd noises or begins to vibrate, switch off the sharpening machine immediately.
- Always switch off the machine and wait for the grinding wheel to come to a complete stop before making any adjustment or inspection.
- Not touch the work piece immediately after the grinding procedure, as it will be extremely hot and could burn the skin.
- The grinding wheel needs to be dried of the coolant water to prevent it causing the wheel to crack in cold weather.
Safe Working Procedures and Instruction

Blade Sharpening Machine

The risk of injury when using this machine is MODERATE – Level 2 Risk

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- Make sure all other students keep clear of the immediate work area.
- Wear PPE to protect your eyes such as safety spectacles.
- Do not wear loose clothing, especially long sleeves and neck ties.
- Check the grinding wheel carefully for cracks or damage before switching the machine on. Replace damaged wheels immediately.
- Do not operate the sharpening machine with the guard removed.
- Keep a space of 5mm between the sharpening platform guide (rail) and the grinding wheel.
- Make sure the work piece is not contacting the wheel before the switch is turned on to operate the machine.
- Before using the machine, switch it on and let it run for several minutes and watch for flutter or wobble that might be caused by incorrect installation or poorly balanced grinding wheel.
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