Thickness Planer Safety

**Pre-Operation**

1) Follow all General Shop and Personal Dress safety rules at all times.

2) If the planer does not have a soundproof enclosure around it, provide hearing protection for all persons that will be working in the vicinity.

3) The cutter heads of the planer should be completely enclosed with solid metal guards. Ensure that these are in place prior to operation.

4) **Thickness** - The thickness of the lumber should be examined before you plane it. Lumber less than ½” can be planed by:
   - Ensure that an instructor is supervising.
   - Place the thin board on top of a thicker board (at least ¾” thick) and
   - Run both boards through the planer together.

5) Stock that is thicker at one end than the other should be planed by inserting the thicker end into the planer first.

6) **Length**
   - Lumber less than the distance between the infeed and the outfeed rollers cannot be safely planed as it may jam the machine.
   - Lumber that is quite long must have adequate space at the outfeed end of the planer.

7) Be careful when planing short stock. Infeed rollers will sometimes cause short stock to quickly tilt up and then down. This can cause a pinch point for fingers between the table and the stock.

8) Check the board for loose knots, nails, staples, dirt, sand or other foreign objects that could come free during the planing process, harming you or the machine.

9) Ensure that the dust removal equipment is working properly before starting the planer.

10) Lumber that has a varnish or finish on it should not be planed, as the dust created may be harmful to your health. Also the painted or varnished finish will quickly dull the machine's knives.

11) Prior to starting the machine, lower the table and remove any wood shavings, loose knots and slivers of wood from the table and roller assembly.
**Operation**

1) Stand to one side when using the planer.

2) Do not allow the stock to feed through your hands when the machine self feeds. This will prevent any slivers being forced into your skin at the same rate the planer is planing the wood.

3) Operators should stop and lockout the feeder rolls, cutter heads and cylinders in accordance with the board lockout procedures before placing their hands in the bed plate to remove wood fragments, to make adjustments or for any other reason.

4) Wood chips and knots are frequently thrown out of the planer; therefore operators should not look into the planer to watch the operation.

5) Other persons should not work or walk directly behind the feeding end of the planer. A barrier or guardrail should be used when the machine is running to prevent this from occurring.

6) When removing lumber from the outfeed of the planer, never come between the end of a long plank and an immovable object such as a wall.

7) Never place your fingers under the board when feeding stock into the machine; hold it at the end of the stock away from the infeed table.

8) If a board becomes stuck, LOWER THE TABLE FIRST until the cutting sound stops, then shut off the machine, lockout and investigate the problem.

9) Never feed material through the same spot on the blades; this will dull the blades unevenly. Move the material from side to side utilizing the entire blade.