

Framing Miter Saw Operation JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A trained framer will crosscut untreated dimensional lumber with an electric sliding compound miter saw at a separated ground-level outdoor cutting station. Long stock is supported on a stable stand. This fictional learning example describes planned controls; it records no actual inspection or work authorization.

- The actual saw instructions determine the sliding-cut sequence, hand-clearance zone, clamping and stock limits.
- An assessed dust collection method, noise protection and suitable electrical supply are arranged.
- Table saws, handheld circular saws, metal cutting, treated wood and freehand cutting are excluded.

Questions before work

- Which model instructions define sliding cuts and the hand exclusion zone?
- How will long stock and short offcuts be supported without binding?
- What dust, noise and electrical controls apply at this station?

Task Hazard Control

1 Establish the cutting station

Hazard: Crossing workers or unstable ground can cause contact with the saw or falling stock.

Control: Cutting lead places a stable stand outside access and separates the blade, stock and offcut zones. Arrange lighting and the electrical route; keep delivery workers from passing through the operator's space.

Verification: Operator checks the complete stock travel area before setup.

Reasoning: The cutting zone is longer than the saw table.

2 Inspect the saw and blade

Hazard: A wrong blade, damaged guard or unlocked adjustment can cause contact or ejection.

Control: With power isolated for setup, inspect the model-approved blade, guard and mounting. Set and secure the intended angles and arrange dust controls; remove a defective unit from service.

Verification: Operator follows the unit's inspection procedure before energizing.

Reasoning: Visual blade condition is only one part of readiness.

3 Support and secure stock

Hazard: Unsupported lumber or hands close to the blade can cause binding or amputation.

Control: Support long stock level with the table and secure the work as required by the manual. Keep hands outside the specified exclusion zone; use suitable fixtures for short pieces and reject cuts that cannot be held safely.

Verification: Operator checks support, clamp and clearances with the blade stopped.

Reasoning: A small offcut does not justify bringing fingers closer.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Make the planned cut

Hazard: An incorrect sliding stroke, kickback, dust or noise can injure the operator.

Control: Follow this saw's cutting sequence with guard and controls intact, stable stance and selected eye, hearing and dust protection. Keep helpers out of the stock path; stop for binding or unusual response.

Verification: Operator monitors saw response and dust collection during each cut.

Reasoning: Sliding saw motions must come from the model instructions.

5 Wait and clear safely

Hazard: A coasting blade can cut a hand during offcut retrieval or adjustment.

Control: Wait for the blade to stop and follow the instructed head position before reaching for work or scrap. Isolate power before blade changes, jam clearing or adjustments that require entry into hazardous areas.

Verification: Operator confirms stopped motion and the required safe state.

Reasoning: Releasing the trigger does not stop the blade immediately.

6 Shut down the station

Hazard: Sharp waste, dust or an accessible energized saw can expose another crew.

Control: Stop and secure the saw, collect waste without creating a dust cloud and keep usable stock supported. Report defects and communicate station restrictions before handover.

Verification: Cutting lead checks cleanup and secured equipment.

Reasoning: The station remains a hazard when the operator steps away.

Pause and reassess

- Stock cannot be supported or held outside the blade zone.
- Guard, blade, stand or dust control is defective.
- Binding, unusual movement or an unplanned material/cut is encountered.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Work carefully and wear PPE.

More useful: Support long stock level with the table and secure the work as required by the manual. Keep hands outside the specified exclusion zone; use suitable fixtures for short pieces and reject cuts that cannot be held safely.

Needs improvement: Check that everything is ready.

More useful: Cutting lead places a stable stand outside access and separates the blade, stock and offcut zones. Arrange lighting and the electrical route; keep delivery workers from passing through the operator's space.

Decisions that change the analysis

Can this be used as the table-saw or circular-saw analysis?

No. Those tools have different feed directions, guards and kickback exposures. The combined matrix power-saw title gets a partial scope link; this resource covers only the defined miter saw station.

What must the crew record for actual use?

Identify the actual equipment and work boundaries, responsible people, applicable criteria, inspection findings and open actions. Resolve changes with affected crews and obtain required project authorization before work.

Training needs

- Demonstrated model-specific miter-saw setup, stock control and safe sliding-cut sequence.
- Wood-dust, noise and electrical hazard instruction for the actual station.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.300 Hand and power tools

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.300>

OSHA 1926.404 Wiring design and protection

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.404>

DEWALT Sliding miter saw instructions and support

<https://www.dewalt.com/en-us/product/dws780/12-double-bevel-sliding-compound-miter-saw>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.