

Masonry Saws: Verify the Cutting Station

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Why this matters

A brick or block can shift at the blade, and failed water delivery can turn a routine cut into a dust exposure. Check the complete stationary saw setup before production starts.

Objective: Verify the saw, unit support, guarding and dust controls for cutting masonry units at a designated station.

Key hazards or failure points

Blade contact or fragments; moving units; unsuitable blades; silica dust; wet electrical conditions; slippery slurry; bystander exposure.

Practical controls

- Use a suitable stationary masonry saw, compatible blade and the actual operating instructions. Keep the required blade enclosure intact; do not remove protection to fit a larger unit.
- Support each unit using the specified table, carriage or holding arrangement. Plan hand positions and offcut handling before cutting; keep helpers and passersby clear of the cutting area.
- Implement the applicable silica-control method. For the Table 1 stationary-saw method, integrated water delivery must feed the blade continuously. Manage the power supply, splash and slurry without defeating electrical protection.

Verify It in the Field

With the saw in its prescribed safe state, match blade identification and ratings to the saw, material and cutting method. Check the enclosure, mounting and visible condition against the instructions.

Check the intended unit on the support without starting a cut. Confirm the permitted handling method keeps hands clear and does not require reaching across the blade or catching an offcut.

Use the prescribed safe check to confirm water reaches the blade and the supply can continue. Check station separation, footing, slurry collection and required power protection. Record the source, actual finding, checker and time.

Stop and reassess

Stop for lost water, damaged guarding or blade, binding, abnormal vibration, shifting support, electrical trips or dust-control failure. Place the machine in its prescribed safe state before adjustments or clearing. Correct and recheck; do not substitute a respirator for a failed required method without the employer's assessed alternative.

Ask the crew

1. What keeps this unit stable and our hands clear?
2. How do we confirm continuous water delivery?
3. What changes if we use a handheld saw instead?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.702(i)–(j); 1926.1153 Table 1(i); actual saw instructions.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/masonry-saw-brick-block-cutting