

Concrete Saws: Verify the Cut and the Setup

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Why this matters

A marked line does not prove that a cut is clear of services or structural hazards. The crew must verify both what will be cut and how the actual saw, blade and controls will work together.

Objective: Confirm the authorized cut and verify blade compatibility, support and exposure controls.

Key hazards or failure points

Embedded electricity or post-tensioning; blade failure; kickback or binding; moving offcuts; silica; water near electrics; combustion exhaust.

Practical controls

- Resolve concealed services and structural restrictions for the exact location and depth, including support-anchor holes. Use the required survey, drawings and responsible authorization; a scan alone is not clearance.
- Use the correct saw, compatible blade and guard for the material and permitted wet/dry method. Plan stable work support and offcut control so movement does not close the cut or expose people.
- Use the applicable silica-control method and required protection. Manage water, slurry, electrical supply and exhaust for the actual equipment and location.

Verify It in the Field

Match marks, depth and affected area to the current release information. Confirm its coverage and uncertainties; protect the far side or area below as needed.

With the saw in its prescribed safe state, compare blade and saw identifiers, ratings and instructions. Inspect guard, mounting and condition; use only the specified safe function checks.

Confirm water delivery or the specified dust-control system functions, supports remain stable and people are clear. Record the criteria, findings, checker and time before cutting.

Stop and reassess

Hold for unknown targets, changed depth, damaged blade/guard, binding, abnormal vibration, moving support, failed dust control or electrical protection trips. Stop for loss of separation or unsafe exhaust conditions; correct and recheck before restarting.

Ask the crew

1. What evidence covers this exact cut and depth?
2. What keeps the cut from closing and the offcut from falling onto someone?
3. Which failed control means we stop immediately?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.1153, .416 and .300; actual saw/blade instructions.

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

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/concrete-saw-safety