

Students under the age of 16 using a band saw.

Although in BS4163:2014 it states clearly that *“Learners should only use band saws when they have been assessed and the assessment has shown that they are competent, and they are under the direct supervision of specifically trained employees”*

..... the Design and Technology Association strongly recommends that no student under the age of 16 should use one, supervised or otherwise. It is felt that the risk of severe injury far outweighs the possible benefits from its use.

The Design and Technology Association is asking you as RDTHSC to say to all your trainees/centres enrolled on S1HS or course delegates who ask about it on other courses, that the Design and Technology Association strongly recommends that the band saw (of any description) is not used by students under the age of 16.

If the school/centre decides not to follow this recommendation which goes further than the regulation described in BS4163:2014, please ensure that:

- they are fully aware of the Association’s stance and reiterate the need for full risk assessments to have been completed and recorded;
- planned training, records of the training must be kept;
- when the student is using a band saw, they must be under the direct and close supervision of a suitably trained staff member.

Mark Elwell – Lead Health and Safety Consultant for D&TA