Environmental Health and Safety Office Research Administration

1762 Clifton Road NE, Suite 1200 Atlanta, GA 30322 (404) 727-5922 FAX: (404) 727-9778

BELT/ DISC SANDER SAFETY RULES

The disc sander consists of a reference table and a circular plate mounted to a motor shaft. A cloth or paper-backed abrasive disc is cemented to the plate. The diameter of the disc indicates the size of the machine, commonly 12". The combination sander includes a vertical belt sander as part of the machine. The following rules must be followed when using a belt/disc sander:

- Always sand on the downward motion side of the disc/belt. Never the upward motion side as this can throw your part upwards with tremendous force.
- Always attempt to place your work against the rest on the disc and belt sanders and hold the work securely.
- When using the horizontal belt sander, always sand so that the belt motion is away from you.
- Do not operate machines with torn or ripped belts or disks.
- Always sand on the down travel side of the disc / belt.
- The rest should be adjusted so that it is no more than 1/8" from the disc.
- Make adjustments only when the sander is at a complete stop.
- Keep fingers away from the abrasive surface on the sander.
- Avoid pressure against the disc. Feed stock into the abrasive material at a moderate rate of feed and pressure.
- Stock that is 1" or smaller in length should not be sanded.
- Use the disc sander for sanding outside curves or angles only.
- The disc sander is NOT to be used for joinery, squaring stock, etc.
- Any disc that is dull or loose should be repaired or replaced immediately. Notify the instructor when the disc is loose.

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