



Bladed hand tools

Common Visual Standard 11

SCOPE

This Common Visual Standard applies to all St Joseph construction sites, whether St Joseph occupy the role of Client or Client and Principal Contractor.

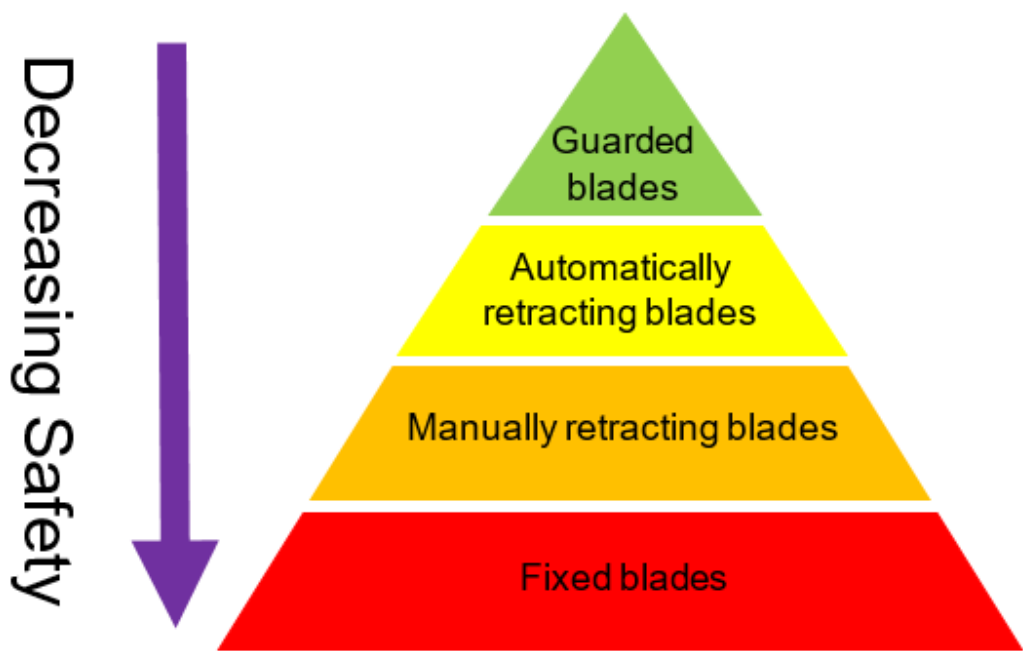
EXPECTATION

St Joseph expect bladed hand tools to be used correctly so that those using them do not injure themselves. The possibility of cutting yourself is always there when using a knife or saw so this document is set out in a hierarchical manner. St Joseph expects that a risk assessment is conducted which leads to selection of the safest available means of cutting items. To select a means of cutting which is lower down the hierarchy will require justification within the risk assessment to demonstrate why the safer means is not able to be used.

APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

The photographs provided in this Common Visual Standard are for illustrative purposes only, as they demonstrate the standard of practice and presentation that St Joseph are aiming to achieve. It is accepted that all construction sites may not be able to achieve the exact details of each Common Visual Standard, however, all reasonable efforts should be made to comply with each Common Visual Standard.

RISK ASSESSMENT



A risk assessment must be undertaken for the use of bladed hand tools by considering methods of cutting that utilise guarded machinery that incorporate a guarded blade before resorting to a tool that has an unguarded blade – the risk assessment should also take dust production into account for power hand tools.

CUT OFF SAWS AND CIRCULAR SAWS



Cut off and Circular saws have a guard which protects the user when cutting. Cut off and Circular saws must be used by competent persons who have received familiarisation training in their use before using them. Cut off and Circular saws should not be used to cut plasterboard because of the dust produced

GUARDED KNIVES



Guarded knives have a blade that is protected by means of the case such that it cannot inadvertently cut the skin of the user. This type of knife should be used in preference to all others where possible

AUTOMATICALLY RETRACTING KNIVES



Automatically retracting knives have a blade that retracts when pressure on the blade is released after making a cut. This type of knife should be used in preference to manually retractable and fixed bladed knives

MANUALLY RETRACTABLE KNIVES



A SAFER OPTION
MUST BE USED
WHERE POSSDIBLE



St Joseph will only permit the use of Manually retractable knives when an automatically retractable knife cannot be used. A documented risk assessment must have been carried out that verifies the reason for this. If a manual retractable knife is used, the blade must be retracted after each cut that is made so that the blade cannot inadvertently cut the user's skin

FIXED BLADE KNIVES

NOT PERMITTED



MUST BE IN SHEATH WHEN NOT IN USE



MUST BE IN SHEATH WHEN NOT IN USE



Fixed blade Stanley knives are not permitted on St Joseph projects. Fixed blade knives used in construction, must always be used in conjunction with a proprietary scabbard or holster so that the knife can be made safe after being used.