

# Have a ripping time

**Regulations and risk assessments are constantly in a state of flux. It is important to ensure that you are up to date with changes in working practices and procedures.**

The biggest change recently, with regards to *Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery*, has to be the position of the rip fence whilst rip cutting.

The old practice (Figure 1) was to set the fence to the half way point of the blade; however, it has been suggested that this may increase the risk of kickback.

A revision in BS4163:2014 now states that:

“The ripping fence, if used, should be accurately adjusted to not extend more than 50 mm beyond the tips of the saw teeth, in the direction of the feed” (Figure 2). (BS4163:2014 - 13.6.2.2 Page 71)

This new setup limits the amount of contact the timber has, between the blade and fence, reducing the risk of kickback.



Figure 1 - Set the fence to the half way point of the blade.

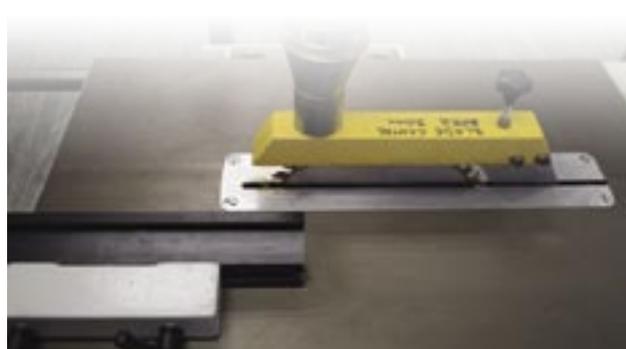


Figure 2 - Set the fence no further than 50 mm beyond the the saw teeth.

## National 5 Laboratory Science: Skills for Work

The National 5 Laboratory Science: Skills for Work course is attracting attention from a number of schools. Within SSERC we are increasingly being asked if we might offer professional development opportunities for teachers and technicians to come together to share ideas and information in relation to the course.

We plan to support National 5 Laboratory Science: Skills for Work by offering participants the opportunity to explore laboratory procedures and practices which can be used in delivery across the course. Combined with opportunities for professional

networking, our course will offer participants a rich and vibrant programme that will enhance teaching and learning within their institutions.

We are pleased to say that we have been able to secure funding through the National STEM Learning Centre (NSLC) for a maximum of 15 participants. NSLC will provide

ENTHUSE Bursaries of £480 which will meet the course fee, resources, and accommodation. The course will be held in 2 parts.

### Reference

[1] <http://www.sserc.org.uk/cpd-sserc/chemistry-courses-sserc/4230-laboratory-science-national-5-lab-skills>.



The course dates are 22-23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Further details including a draft programme and details on how to apply can be found on the SSERC website [1].  
**The closing date for applications is 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**