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| **SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE****STRIP HEATER** |
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| **DO NOT** use this machine unless you have completed an induction and the Supervisor has given permission |
| Safety glasses must be worn at all times.  | Protective cotton gloves must be worn when using this equipment.  |
| Foot Protection circleAppropriate protective footwear with substantial uppers must be worn. | A suitable workshop apron is encouraged. |

### **Never operate a faulty electrical power tool. Report it to the Supervisor.**

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### **PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS**

1. **Examine the power lead and heater for obvious damage.**
2. **Check there is no foreign matter in the element channel.**
3. **Ensure that the adjustable rests are in place, that they are correctly spaced to suit the thickness of material to be bent, and that they provide the desired heating zone for the bending profile.**
4. **Only use the strip heater for approved plastics e.g. acrylic.**
5. **Ensure that the cord does not create a slip/trip hazard.**
6. **Ensure the workspace is well ventilated.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Turn on to pre-heat the heater element for ten minutes prior to use.**
2. **Always wear safety glasses and cotton gloves that are resistant to high temperatures to protect against burns.**
3. **Regularly check the heating element for build-up of dust or waste such as sawdust. Invert heater carefully and allow foreign waste to fall away (when unplugged).**
4. **Before heating and bending any thermoplastic material, remove all protective paper from both sides.**
5. **Accurately mark the desired position for the bend with a felt marker or china-graph pencil so marks can be removed later.**
6. **Support the material to be heated. Use the outrigger support where fitted or other appropriate supports.**
7. **A thermoplastic work piece with a material thickness >5mm may need to be turned over after one minute to ensure even heating and to improve the desired profile.**
8. **Turn off and wait until the element has completely cooled before storing the strip heater away correctly.**
9. **Never leave the strip heater unattended when still switched ON or when still HOT.**
10. **Leave the strip heater unplugged when not in use.**

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| **Do NOT touch the HOT element** |

#### HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Switch off, unplug and allow to cool down before storing.**
2. **Leave the work area in a safe, clean and tidy condition.**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

* + **Hot elements and surfaces ◼ Burns ◼ Electricity ◼ Trip and slip**
	+ **Toxic fumes ◼ Eye injuries ◼ Fire**

This SOP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with the tool and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed to be used as an adjunct to teaching Safety Procedures and to act as a reminder to users prior to tool use.

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