

IA Shops - Worksafe and Requirements - Jan 7, 2026

ADVISORY

Howdy Folks,

I have written this document to advise everyone who owns or operates IA Shops in their schools or maintenance shops on what are the “enforced” requirements on equipment based on the current Worksafe Audits and Inspections that have been taking place.

In school districts that I have worked in so far, we have locked or tagged out equipment without guards attached. Orders coming from the various Worksafe inspection have been brought forward from many school districts. Primarily in the Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley areas so far.

NOTE: Worksafe has stated that IA Shops in schools will now be treated the same as in Industry.

Summary - A major incident occurred in SD 33 (Chilliwack). I provided reaudits for all the shops over the break.

Based on the Worksafe Orders for SD 33 (Chilliwack)

1. Guards

- a. All equipment including but not limited to drills, band saws, metal saws, table saws, mills, lathes, sanding equipment, grinders, planers, molders, etc., **REQUIRE GUARDING.**
- b. **All Chuck guards for METAL LATHES must be interlocked**
- c. **No Exceptions.**

2. Procedures

- a. SWP (Safe Work Procedures) must be developed, training and supervision provided and enforced for all areas. No Exceptions.

3. Training

- a. See above, this would include “Lockout Training” as well.
- b. Shop inspection training, development of inspection forms, checklists, etc.
- c. PPE – Safety boots, eye protection, Noise, Specialized Clothing as required, etc. Must be worn.

4. Manuals

- a. Owners / Operators manuals for all pieces of equipment must be available and followed.
- b. Safety Manuals for all shops, discussing various Codes, standards and regulations in regard to shop safety and operations.

5. Supervision

- a. Full supervision is required.
- b. biggest stumbling block in my opinion (Responsible Trained Person)
- c. We don't have that in schools currently.

6. Exposure Control Plans for Welding & Wood Dust

- a. In development with many school Districts at this time.
- b. Specialized requirements for PLASMA cutting and other welding & cutting related operations

7. Other Issues, Worksafe, Code, Standard and Regulation Based

- a. Lack of Safety Zones
- b. Flammables, Spray Operations, Labeling & Room Congestion
- c. Dust Collector, lack of Isolation Device
- d. Non-Standard Hosing (Comb, Tape, etc)
- e. Portable dust collector non-standard
- f. Mixed Use – NON-STANDARD MIX (Wood & Metal)
- g. Blocked exits
- h. Grinder in wood shop (Ignition source)
- i. General Housekeeping

So that's it for now. Remember we are in this together. We have lots of resources out there as we move forward with these important, required issues.

If you have any questions or comments, contact me at any time.

All the best in 2026.



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