

Technical Bulletin No: 47-2022



Title:	DIAMOND BLADES ISSUED FOR HIRE
Priority	Amber – Audit Rating: Non-Conformance-Minor
Legislation:	PUWER, HASWA
Brief Description:	This bulletin sets out the basic requirements and definitions regarding Diamond Blades issued for Hire
Equipment Affected:	Diamond Blades issued for Hire in Portable and Moveable Hire Equipment including, but not limited to; Angle Grinders, Cut-Off Saws, and Floor Saws

During SafeHire audits it has been identified that a selection of members are issuing equipment for hire with Diamond Blades fitted.

It is important that all associated risks and potential liability is considered in providing equipment for hire with Diamond Blades already fitted to Hire Equipment.

Equipment manufacturers recommend that Diamond Blades are removed prior to transportation or storage to minimise risk of damage to the blades and/or the equipment.

Should an incident occur involving a diamond blade fitted to machine, which was supplied and fitted by the hire company this may result in a potential liability situation, even if the blade was initially fitted correctly. The hire company may have difficulty evidencing that any blade fitted by them had subsequently been removed and re-fitted incorrectly. It may also be difficult to support that all the necessary pre-hire equipment checks have been carried out where equipment is supplied with the blade fitted, particularly after the equipment has been used.

Distinguish between Customers

Customers who are at work have duties themselves under Health and Safety Law to take responsibility for their own actions. The DIY customer has no such duty, and you therefore need to go further as a supplier to ensure that the hire is safe.

Equipment Hand-Over

In keeping with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HASWA) and other delegated legislation including the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) sufficient information and instruction regarding the correct mounting of Diamond Blades to Equipment provided for Hire should be communicated during the hand-over of the equipment to the customer on request (at work customer). DIY customers should receive this briefing as a requirement of hire.

Any demonstration or instruction offered on how to correctly fit blades is not a substitute for the hirers legal duty to ensure operators are authorised and competent in the safe use of machinery and fitting of blades to machines and as such should be suitably informed of all possible hazards associated with the use of the equipment as equipment can present hazards if used incorrectly by untrained personnel or if the equipment is not used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, or not used for its intended purpose.

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Authors:	HAE Hire Certification Services	Reviewed by:	HAE HS&T	Revision:	V1

Hire Equipment

Pre-Hire checks must be carried out to determine that the hire equipment is safe for its intended purpose which will require the removal of a Diamond Blade fitted to a machine in order that the following essential checks are performed:

- Check that the equipment is in good serviceable condition, free from damage or defects.
- Check that the machine is complete with all fixings correctly secured in place.
- Check that all the necessary accessories are with the equipment.
- The equipment must be free of leaks.
- Confirming that the dust suppression, dust extraction, and/or water coolant provisions (as applicable) are fully operational.
- The equipment must be fully functional in keeping with manufacturers recommendations including checking that the max spindle speed is visible, and all controls operate faultlessly.
- Only the correct manufacturers parts and accessories including blade mounting tools must be fitted/supplied with the equipment.
- The equipment must be thoroughly cleaned removing all dirt / debris. Dirt / debris often builds-up on the inside of cutting guards, on flanges, wheel nuts, and drive shafts which can lead to equipment failure or injury. Blades must therefore be removed in order that all the appropriate checks can be completed.
- The Drive shaft must be checked for wear, signs of grooving, and for cleaning.
- The Mounting Flanges must be checked to ensure that the correct flanges are fitted, they are equal in diameter, there is no excessive wear, no reduction in diameter, no sharp edges, no damages, and they must be suitably cleaned.
- Where blade locator pins are fitted (e.g. to driven flanges) these must be checked to ensure that they are secure, free from wear or damage.
- Securing nuts are not 'rounded' corroded, or damaged.

Diamond Blades

Diamond blades returned in hire machine must be removed and checked to ensure:

- The blade has not been damaged during the hire period or transportation.
- The blade has no visible signs of damage, missing segments, or disfiguration to the arbor hole or locator pin hole where applicable.
- The blade has no visible signs of fatigue/stress cracks, segment damage, undercutting (worn away beneath the segments), segments are not worn resulting in having no lateral overhang, heavy discoloration due to overheating, etc.
- Diamond blades supplied with equipment must be of the correct diameter, mounting hole size, maximum operating speed in RPM or metres per second (m/s) to match the equipment specification, and must be suited to the application (material to be cut).

Note: Further examples can be found in Tech Bulletin No. 12: Floor / Road saws.

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