



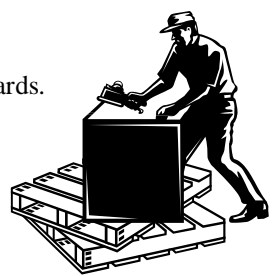
Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 263: Material Banding Strap Safety

Introduction: In construction and manufacturing, bands secure almost every type of material shipped to the job on wooden pallets. The steel bands do a good job of holding boxes, crates, lumber, pipe, large concrete culverts, metal products, equipment, and other materials to the pallets during shipping and handling with forklifts and pallet jacks. These steel bands are under tension and are springy by nature. The amount of tension on a band depends on the material being secured, how tightly it was secured, and whether or not the load shifted during the shipping process. Steel bands usually have sharp edges and ends and when cut, if not done carefully, may cut you. If you are required to remove and handle steel banded material, follow these safety guidelines:

- **Never use bands** for lifting or moving material while it is on the pallet, the sharp edges may cut, and the bands may break causing displacement of the load, and the possibility of injury.
- **Make sure the** area that you are using to handle banded material is not cluttered and is free of trip hazards.
- **Always use** the appropriate tool to cut bands. Inappropriate tools such as using a crowbar to try to break the bands may put you in front of the steel bands and increase the possibility of getting cut by the sharp edges of the bands. Use a proper band cutting tool, rather than something else that might be conveniently at hand.
- **Good footing and balance** are important when cutting the bands. If you are not able to move quickly you may be injured when the bands spring free. Watch out for possible pinch points, once the bands have been cut, the material could shift and fall on you or a co-worker.
- **Bands often jump** when they are cut and can whip violently. Standing at a right angle to the band will reduce the chance of getting hit by the band. Watch out for your co-workers; if a co-worker is within the cutting area, get them out of the way before cutting the bands.
- **When cutting bands** and unable to see the other side of the load, ensure that no one is standing or passing by on the blind side of the load prior to cutting the bands.
- **Personal protective** equipment such as hard hats, safety glasses, long sleeve shirts, and gloves should be used for handling banded material and cutting procedures. Steel toe boots are also a good idea.
- **Once the bands** are cut, pick them up immediately (remember, they are sharp), and dispose of them properly. Loose steel bands are hazardous to work around. They are not only a trip hazard, but have sharp edges that can cut you.



Conclusion: The steel bands that hold material together for shipping can be dangerous and should be treated in that manner. Think and be prepared to react quickly when working with banded material. Handle unbanded material very carefully as loads may easily shift and fall once unsecured.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Employee Signatures: _____
(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.