

Planer Operator

Job Summary and Training Guidelines

2025

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Job Summary

The Planer Operator monitors the dry, rough lumber as it flows from tilt hoist automatically into the Planer. Using a series of buttons/switches, operator can start/stop different chain sections as needed. Watch to ensure no hang ups or upsets occur and must sort out broken or undesired wood so that it does not become stuck in the Planer. This position is responsible for keeping the Planer going which includes, activating a product change, making minor adjustments from console, and knowing the procedure for removing broken boards and restarting (Don't enter planer room while planer is running). Operators must make sure that the chain stays full, and the lumber is flowing straight. If an upset condition were to occur, the operator must follow the proper procedure to remove the upset condition in a safe, timely manner.

Job Tasks

Employee Priorities

- Personal safety.
- Safety of others.
- Quality of the product.
- Quantity (production).

Planer Infeed

Feed rough lumber into the Planer and sort bad boards out. Watch the boards to ensure that they are straight for the planer. The lumber is generally between 8 feet to 10 feet long, and there are a variety of widths and thicknesses.

Planer Jam Ups

Constantly be monitoring for upset conditions. If a jam-up cannot be cleared from console, the planer must be shut down and all cutting heads stopped before entering the Planer room. Hand tools must be used to clear debris from planer, if this is not possible, LOTO procedures will apply. Assist with any upset conditions upstream of planer or at planer outfeed.

Reject Bins and Belt

Assist the Tilt Hoist Operator by monitoring the reject board bin. When the camera shows that the reject bin is full, notify the forklift operator that it needs to be changed. Watch the belt for upset conditions.

Physical Job Demands

This job is a medium impact job. Job involves standing for long periods and feeding lumber to equipment. Operator must be able to Bend/Stoop, Twist and Turn while unplugging upset conditions as needed unless otherwise told by your supervisor.

Mental Challenges

- Know what species of wood you will be running.
- Know the variety of products you will be running.
- Staying focused on the job at hand.

- Watching what is going on around you so that you do not endanger yourself or others.

Job Duties

- Perform the work in a way that will ensure your personal safety.
- Keep chains full.
- When the production stops check that the problem is not in your area.
- Ensure product is feeding properly.
- Follow lockout procedures when putting yourself in harm's way.
- Never perform a task for the first time by yourself.
- Respond to fires according to procedures and training.
- Know how to operate a fire extinguisher and the emergency route for evacuation.
- Be able to lift and sort boards properly.
- When there is downtime, keep your workstation clean and safe. Downtime is clean up time.

Essential Job Functions

- Must know and understand Lockout/Tagout procedures.
- Walking.
- Standing for long periods of time.
- Repetitious use of hand and wrists.
- Fast paced work, must be able to safely keep product moving.
- Ability to learn other Job stations.
- When upset conditions occur assist in clearing them.

Quality Control

- Throw away any unusable, or broken boards.
- Know the product.
- Be aware of what thickness, species, and length of sort you are running.

Non-Routine Tasks

- Major Plug-ups.
- Plant Cleaning.
- Organization.
- Do not enter an unauthorized area without training.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) will not prevent accidents but it will lessen the injury severity. SDS requires a standard amount of PPE to be always worn. The list below shows what further PPE is required to perform these job duties. Required PPE is provided by SDS.

- Gloves, required.
- Hardhats, required.
- Safety glasses, required.
- Hearing protection, Wear dual protection around the Planer. Required.
- Goggles are required when blowing debris with compressed air.

Hazards

Potential hazards associated with this job station:

- Slips and falls are significant hazards - Keep walkways clear of tools, air hoses, and trips hazards.
- The planer is a high noise area and dual noise protection is required.
- Splinters from lumber. (Do not slide the material across your body without wearing proper PPE).
- Cleaning with compressed air. (Always wear your safety goggles and when blowing sawdust or bark dust wear a dust mask if appropriate).
- Strains and sprains of upper extremities and lower back.
- Struck by lumber or forklift.

Behavior-Based Safety

Our safety processes at SDS Lumber were developed by the people and focus on behaviors. A behavior is something I do that you can see, or something that you do that I can see. It is that simple. Safe behaviors that get recognized and rewarded tend to get repeated even when a supervisor is not there watching. It is important that we recognize the things we do that put ourselves or others at risk of being injured, both at work and at home.

You may observe an unsafe act or near miss. As an employee, your responsibility is to give feedback to coworkers and supervisors. To be effective, feedback should be soon, certain, specific and positive. If someone has taken the time to give you feedback, listen closely to what they have to say.

Self-Directed Safety

Hazard recognition is the first step to accident prevention; the second step in the process is learning what you can do to protect yourself from known hazards. Here are some suggestions from your co-workers:

- If for any reason, you must put yourself in harm's way, LOCK IT OUT!
- Your Safety is your responsibility!
- Use common sense.
- Don't be afraid to hit the STOP button.
- Think about what's next and what could happen.
- Respect the machine; it doesn't care what it eats.
- Wear PPE.
- Try to keep your mind on the job.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Stretch often, especially shoulders and legs.
- Ask for help, don't go-it alone.
- Be sure to drink plenty of water during the summer months to prevent heat stroke.
- Dress in layers during the winter months so that you can take off layers or put on layers as you get warmer or colder.

Work Safely: Machinery is automated, can start, stop and index independently of operator. Operators need to be able to make quick decisions in order to avoid putting themselves in an unsafe position. There are numerous sprockets, gears, moving chains and pinch points to be aware of.

Although we have tried to think of every possible hazard, there will always be the possibility that we have missed some. Knowing this, it is everyone's responsibility to constantly be on the lookout for new and unknown hazards.

In Case of Fire

- Know evacuation routes and where fire extinguishers are located.
- If it is smaller than a garbage can, try to extinguish it.
- If larger, then evacuate!
- Once you are safe let your supervisor or maintenance know.

Heat Stress

All employees will receive annual training on heat stress prevention. Several employees in each department will receive First Aid training and certification enabling them to recognize and respond to symptoms of heat stress.

Energy Isolation (Lockout/Tagout)

Follow site-specific guidelines for each piece of machinery. Be familiar with task-based lockout procedures, their terminology and their location. Periodic audits will be conducted to ensure complete awareness of LOTO.

Lockout every time any part of your body is in HARM'S WAY. Harm's way is described as "a dangerous place or situation". This means if it is powered and you can touch it or if your body must leave a designated walkway or catwalk, YOU MUST LOCKOUT!

Chemicals

The Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals in the Planer plant can be found in safety office. Here is a list of some of the chemicals you may come in contact with:

- Hydraulic fluid
- Grease

Emergency Response

Emergency Response/evacuation and Environmental/spill Response Manuals are available in Yard and Safety offices. In addition, you will receive annual training to keep you updated and familiar.

Operator Control

Take a few minutes at the start of the shift to familiarize yourself with the operating controls and where the starting positions are. Ensure all controls are properly labeled and that you understand their functions.

Training Tips

Here are some tips from fellow employees who are most knowledgeable about the position. It would be in your best interest to pay close attention to what they had to say:

- Always lock out when putting yourself in harm's way.
- Remember to VERIFY lockouts every time. MCC's have failed.
- STOP and think before you do things.
- Keep eyes and ears open. Pay attention to surroundings.
- Watch where you put your hands.
- Watch out for forklifts.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- BE IN CONTROL! Productivity is important, but NEVER jeopardize your safety!

Required Training

LOTO, Slips and falls, Ladders, Heat stress, Fire safety, Back Safety.

Personal Accountability and Job Profile Review

I, _____, have received and read the job profile for Planer Operator and know that if I perform my job as described that the likelihood of me being injured is minimized. I also recognize that my own failure to do so could result in serious injury or even death. I am willing to accept full responsibility for my own actions and understand I will be held accountable.

Signature

Date