

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet covers the safe working practices to be used when cross-cutting and stacking timber. For guidance on personal protective equipment (PPE), the machine, preparing to work, maintenance, fuelling and starting procedures see FISA leaflet 301 *Using petrol-driven chainsaws*.

You can use this leaflet, along with the chainsaw manufacturer's handbook, as part of the risk assessment process to help identify the controls to put in place when cross-cutting and stacking.

You must also assess the effect of the site and the weather as well as following this guidance.

All operators must have had appropriate training in how to operate the machine and how to carry out the tasks required

PREPARING TO CROSS-CUT AND STACK

- ❑ 1 Clear any debris that is likely to interfere with the cross-cutting process.
- ❑ 2 Plan the work so that the lightest produce moves furthest.
- ❑ 3 Use bearers or other supports where possible.
- ❑ 4 Ensure the work area gives a good firm footing.
- ❑ 5 A length of timber should only be broken down into sections by one person at any one time.
- ❑ 6 Ensure that a safe working distance is maintained between workers (at least 5m) and between workers and machinery (outside the risk zone of the machines being used).

- ❑ 7 Maintain a secure and balanced stance.
- ❑ 8 When cross-cutting on slopes, work on the uphill side of logs if there is a risk of the timber rolling.
- ❑ 9 Reduce excessive tension by first making a cut on the compression side of the log (see *Figure 1*).
- ❑ 10 When it is necessary to use a boring cut, do not start with the tip of the guide bar and ensure that it does not strike other stacked material as this can cause kickback (see *Figure 2*).

- ❑ 11 If the chainsaw jams, switch it off. Pull the chainsaw gently to see if it can be dislodged, otherwise use the correct aid tools to open the cut.
- ❑ 12 Be ready to step back quickly if the log being cut starts to roll.

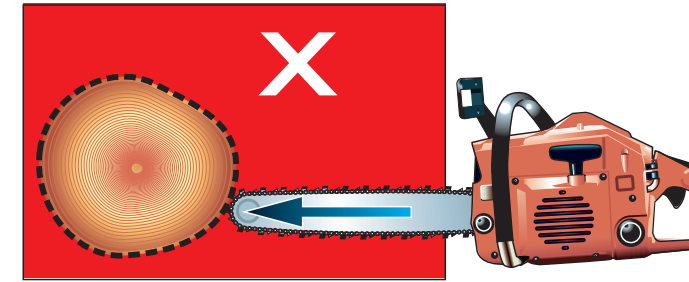
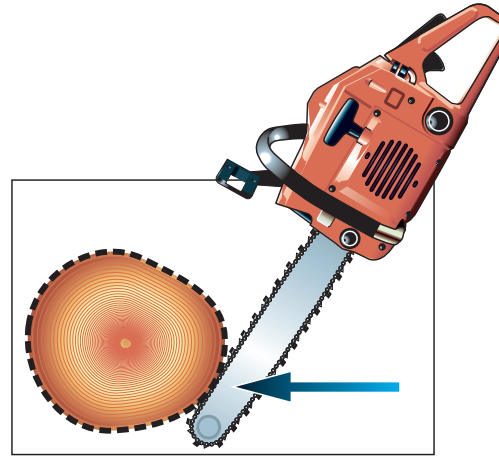


Figure 2: Start of boring cut

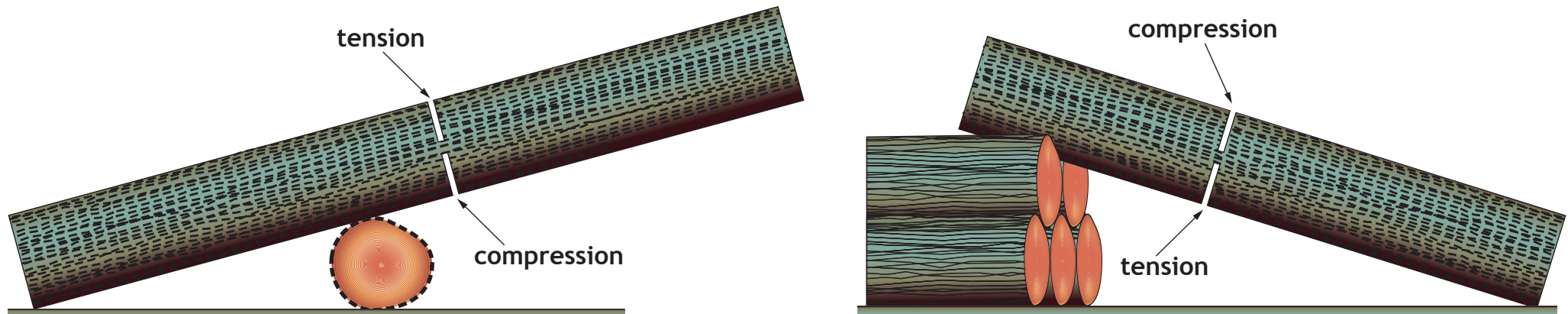


Figure 1: Identification of tension and compression wood