

This SWOP outlines the Metcash safe and approved work method for carton/plastic cutting in a Warehouse environment.

Key Hazards

- Use of knives for carton/plastic cutting can result in a medical treatment due to cuts.
- Changing knife blades and placing used blades in the bin can cause cuts.
- Placing retractable knives in tight pockets and using personal knives can lead to cuts.

Key Identified Controls

- Self-retractable safety knives, parrot knives or cute cutters only.
- AS/NZ Standard cut proof gloves may be used to protect hands.



Figure 1 Cute Cutter.



Figure 2 Parrot knife.



Figure 3 Self-retracting safety knife.

PRIORITY ITEMS

- Check the knife is free from damage prior to use.
- Check the blade is sharp by attempting to cut some tape or cardboard.
- Contact supervisor if knife is blunt and request a new blade. If trained, change the knife blade. Place in sharps container.

SAFE WORK OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Consider wearing appropriate cut proof gloves. These can be provided by your Supervisor.

Inspect box to be cut/opened. Select approved safety knife or cutting tool:

- Cute cutters can be used on tape.
- Parrot knives are suitable to cut tape and single layers of plastic.
- Use parrot knife for products involving cans or plastic.
- Self-retractable safety knives are effective for cutting cardboard and multiple layers of plastic.

When cutting:

- Avoid leaning over cases.
- Move box closer to the body.
- Cut away from the body.
- Do not forcibly cut the box or plastic. This may cause the blade to snap.
- Keep hands away from the path of the cutter.
- Have a comfortable grip of the cutter.

Do not put Self-retractable knives into tight pockets. Tight pockets may engage the knife blade to extend and cause injuries.

PHOTOS/DIAGRAMS



Figure 4 Parrot Knife being used to cut plastic wrap. Gloves on.



Figure 5 There is a hazard of possibly cutting fingers with this technique. Cut away from the body.

Other Requirements

Associated Documents

- SHE-GT SHE Risk Assessment Carton/Plastic Cutters
- AS/NZ 2161.3 Australian Gloves Standard