

Safe Work Instruction

Compressed Air Tools & Equipment



INTRODUCTION:

Compressed air is only to be used to run pneumatic tools and, if precautions are not taken it can be very dangerous, therefore, all personnel using pneumatic equipment must be trained in its correct and safe use (utilising this SWI), and be deemed competent by their Supervisor.

A flailing hose can hit like a hammer and compressed air is capable of eye penetration, rupturing eardrums and entering the blood stream causing pain and even death.

Treat it with respect and never “Indulge in Horseplay” with compressed air.

WORK INSTRUCTION:

- Appropriate eye (face shield), hearing, foot, hand and head protection (PPE) must be worn when working with compressed air;
- A pre-start inspection must be completed prior to use including, checking air lines (full length) for holes, bulges, cracks and wear and, tightening hose connections (hose must have a shut off valve);
Note: Equipment must be isolated while inspecting.
- Check all quick release couplings to prevent separating under pressure and, use safety chains and/or safety clips where provided (prevention from separating and/or whipping);
- Turn off air supply and, remove air from hoses when connecting or disconnecting;
- Always release air slowly into any system and ensure that control switches on air tools are in the off position;
- Air hoses where possible must be suspended above traffic and/or protected from traffic or pedestrian damage. Check that no hose is kinked or constitutes a tripping hazard.
- Never use compressed air to blow dust or debris from clothing, skin or hair and, never direct compressed air at any part of yours or anyone else’s body.
- After the job, turn off main supply and bleed the air before disconnecting couplings.
- Compressors should be parked and operated on level ground with the wheels chocked and / or park brake on, air tank bled and disconnected from the vehicle
Note: If compressor is to be used inside or where ventilation is inadequate, steps should be taken to remove exhaust fumes.
- Electric compressors should be checked prior to use (refer [Company Name]-SWI-009 – Portable Electrical Equipment), and internal combustion compressors checked for correct fluid levels, fluid leaks and general their state of repair.
- Air tools shall be checked prior to use, report any faults or damage to your Supervisor.
Note: Check oil, hoses and clips, tool silencers are fitted, tool latch is operating correctly and, check points & chisels periodically throughout operation for failure or deterioration.
- During transportation the compressor must be chained to the towing vehicle at all times and hoses disconnected and secured or transported separately.