

## AIR EQUIPMENT SAFETY (TOOLS AND HOSES)

### A. COMPRESSED AIR, HOSES AND CONNECTIONS

1. Compressed air can be fatal if it enters a person's bloodstream. Serious injury may also occur from flying particles produced when blowing compressed air. Handle with care!
2. Use gloves when working directly with compressed air i.e.: blow gun etc. A face shield is recommended when there is a chance of flying debris.
3. Never block compressed air with your fingers, hands or any other part of your body.
4. (Company) will not permit compressed air to be directed towards a worker:
  - a) for the purpose of cleaning clothing or personal protective equipment used by that worker; or
  - b) for any other purpose if the use of compressed air may cause dispersion into the air of contaminants that may be harmful to workers.
5. Air Pressure in the main lines is about 100 - 105 PSI. Use regulators to adjust the pressure for your application where reduced pressure is required.
6. If at all possible, avoid using compressed air for cleaning purposes of equipment, work tables etc... If compressed air must be used for cleaning, use a low pressure gun.
7. Air supply hoses should be checked for 'soft spots' or 'bubbles'; worn, damaged, or loose connections before using them on each shift. If hoses are found to be in an unsafe condition, they must be repaired before using them or they must be discarded.
8. The snap ring on the female connections should be working properly.
9. All clamps fastening a rubber air supply hose to its end must be of the "banded" type. Regular hose clamps are not allowed because they may cut the hose.
10. Checking and maintenance of the "on line oilers" must be done by the supervisor or his/her designate. "Oilers" which supply air tools should be set to drip one drop of oil every 30 seconds during air usage.
11. Know where your air supply hose is plugged into the main line and where the "turn-off" valve is for that connection. If a hose should break or a connection should come apart, disconnect the hose or turn off the air supply. **Do not** attempt to catch the flailing hose.
12. When using air supply hoses, be sure that they do not come into contact with any hot or sharp objects or placed where objects may fall on them. Air hoses which must be run underneath paint lines must be protected from falling objects with angle iron, etc.

13. Do not drive over air hoses with forklifts, etc.
14. Roll-up hoses when not in use and at the end of the shift.

## **B. AIR TOOLS**

1. Keep hands and all body parts away from rotating or moving parts of air tools.
2. Check your air tools before operating to make sure that:
  - a) the main body of the tool is not broken or cracked.
  - b) the trigger is not broken and operating freely.
  - c) if so equipped, the safety latch is in place and working properly.
  - d) if so equipped, the forward/reverse switch should be operating properly.
  - e) arbors and lock nuts are in good working condition and the tool changing mechanism is working properly.
3. If possible connect to an air supply which has an on-line filter/lubricator on it. If this is not possible lubricate the air tool by putting a few drops of air tool lubricant into the air inlet of the tool at least once a shift.
4. Never exceed the manufacturers recommended air pressure rating for any air tool. This should be stated on the tool. If unsure, ask your supervisor.
5. Use only attachments which are rated at or higher then the rating of the tool, and which are designed for the operation which you are performing.
6. To prevent injury or damage make sure all attachments to the air tool, (sockets, bits, etc.) are attached to the tool in a secure and safe manner so they will not loosen and fly off when a tool is being used.
7. Never tie, tape or otherwise fasten the trigger or safety latch of an air tool in the "on" position.
8. When operating an air tool which generates flying particles, you must wear a face shield.
9. When using an air drill, do not apply "side" pressure on the bit. This is not a reaming tool.
10. Handle tools with care, do not drop them or leave them where damage to the tool may result.
11. Keep tools clean. Grease and oil on tools make them slippery and hard to control.
12. If tools do not work properly or are in an unsafe condition, do not use them. Tag them and contact your supervisor who will get them repaired.
13. Always return all tools to there designated storage area (tool box, cabinet, etc.).