

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C094: Pneumatic Tools

Introduction: Pneumatic tools are powered by compressed air. Common types of air-powered tools used in construction and industry include buffers, nailing and stapling guns, grinders, drills, jack hammers, chipping hammers, riveting guns, sanders, and wrenches. Post warning signs where pneumatic tools are used. Set up screens or shields in areas where nearby workers may be exposed to flying fragments, chips, dust, and excessive noise. Use only approved attachments for the tools you are using.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Wear eye protection at all times when operating pneumatic tools. Any debris, large or small, can become a projectile.
- Impact resistant face protection should be worn over your eye protection. This is face protection and is not intended to take the place of eye protection.
- Prolonged exposure to noise caused by normal operation of pneumatic equipment may lead to hearing disorders.
- Wear hearing protection when you're using pneumatic equipment that creates excessive noise caused by the operations.
- Safety or steel-toe boots or shoes must be worn at all times by anyone operating pneumatic tools or by anyone in the immediate area.
- Hard hats should be worn when you're operating pneumatic tools, especially if you're doing overhead work.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing or jewelry of any type when operating pneumatic tools.

Operation:

- Prior to using any pneumatic tool, read and understand the operating and safety instructions.
- Keep your tools clean and lubricated, and maintain them according to the manufacturers' instructions. All pneumatic tools must be inspected to make sure they are working properly prior to operation. All components must be checked to make sure they are tight and there are no missing or damaged parts. Check all bolts for proper torques.
- Never change tool steel, bits, or any accessories without disconnecting the air supply and relieving the air pressure. Never leave an idle tool connected to the air supply to prevent accidental actuation.
- Inspect your tool steel for cracks or damage. Never operate pneumatic equipment with damaged tool steel or bits.
- Never attempt to use a pneumatic tool without a retainer. Inspect retainers for damage or excessive wear and do not use them if they're damaged. Always work with the tool firmly pointed toward the workface and not towards your body or towards anyone else.
- A Defective or malfunctioning air tool should be immediately disconnected from the compressor, tagged as inoperative, and removed from service.
- Always inspect all air hoses and fittings for cracks, worn threads, and damaged or loose quick disconnect couplings in order to prevent injury resulting from a whipping air hose. Choose air-supply hoses that have a minimum working pressure rating of 150 psi or 150% of the maximum pressure produced in the system, whichever is higher. Use the correct diameter hose and fittings. Use hoses specifically designed to resist abrasion, cutting, crushing and failure due to continuous flexing. Check hoses regularly for cuts, bulges and abrasions. Tag and replace, if defective. Look out for excess air hose around the work area and avoid trip hazards caused by hoses laid across walkways or curled underfoot.
- Ensure that the compressed air supplied to the tool is clean and dry. Dust, moisture, and corrosive fumes can damage a tool, making it unsafe. Always use air regulators to ensure the recommended air pressure of 90 psi. Never operate your tool at a pressure above the manufacturer's rating. Make sure that hose connections fit properly and are mechanically secured (chain, wire, or positive locking device). Do not carry a pneumatic tool by its hose. Turn off the air pressure to the hose when not in use or when changing tools or attachments. Avoid using compressed air to blow debris or to clean dirt from clothes. Cleaning with compressed air is dangerous and should only be used if no alternate method of cleaning is available. The nozzle pressure MUST remain below 30 psi.

Conclusion: Always use common sense and good judgment and take the time to ensure your safety and that of others. Require that all operators read and understand the safety labels affixed to the tool. When possible, keep all spectators away from the work area. If there must be spectators, keep them a safe distance from the work-zone. Follow these guidelines for safe pneumatic tool operations.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.