

**PURPOSE/APPLICATION**

To provide guidance for managing the hazards associated with operating and maintaining air compressors, hoses, and related equipment in a safe manner.

**PPE**

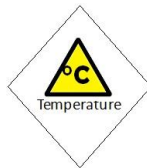
- Strike Minimum Requirements
- Hearing Protection (where required)

**TRAINING**

- WHMIS-2015
- TDG For Transportation

**HAZARDS & CONCERNS**

- Injury
- Noise
- Pressure
- Flying Objects



**PRECAUTIONS**

**THE DOs**

- DO** Verify compressors are equipped with pressure relief valves and pressure gauges.
- DO** Install air compressors in such a way that clean, uncontaminated air enters the compressor.
- DO** Ensure air receivers include a drain valve at the lowest point for the removal of accumulated oil and water.
- DO** Periodically drain moisture and oil from compressed air receivers. Ensure all airlines and/or hoses are equipped with locking quick disconnect fittings.
- DO**
- DO** Check all hoses before use for defects or damage, and defective hoses shall be repaired or replaced.
- DO** Ensure all air pressure sources have been shut off and residual air pressure relieved before disconnecting tools or hoses.
- DO** Ensure all rotating equipment must be guarded (pulleys and belts).
- DO** Pressure-released devices must be inspected as per manufacturer specifications.
- DO** Install whip checks at all hose connection points.
- DO** Ensure that compressed air bottles are appropriately labeled.
- DO** Use hearing protection as required.
- DO** Ensure that a pneumatic-powered tool is disconnected from a compressed air supply before any adjustment to the tool is made or the tool is serviced.

**THE DON'Ts**

- DON'T** Spray compressed air toward another worker for any reason.
- DON'T** Use compressed air to blow debris from your clothing.
- DON'T** Use compressed air to potentially spread potentially flammable dust if there are potential ignition sources in the area.
- DON'T** Exceed and pneumatic tool's pressure rating.

**DON'T** Use compressed air to clean up coating or insulation that may contain asbestos; or other hazardous material.

**DON'T** Mix compressed gas equipment, only use equipment for the gas for which it is designed.

**DON'T** Rely on compressed air as a method of ventilation.

**DON'T** Repair damaged hoses unless certified to do so.

**REFERENCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Alberta OHS Code**

Part 10 Fire and Explosion Hazards 171(1) Compressed and liquefied gas

**Saskatchewan OHS Regulation**

Part 19 Work in Compressed Air

**British Columbia OHS Regulation**

Part 4 General Conditions

**Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Legislation**

Part 27 Work in A Compressed Air Environment

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