



Industry Type:	All
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Safe Work Practice – Explosive/Powder Actuated Fastening Tools SWP-021

Preparation: Safety Specialist	Approval Authority: Senior Management	Issuing Dept: Safety
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GENERAL:

There are a number of tools that utilize an explosive charge in use throughout the construction industry. The manufacturers of these devices provide detailed instructions regarding their use and maintenance. These instructions, along with specific legislation shall be closely adhered to at all times.

PROTECTIVE MECHANISMS:

- Safe Work Practice (SWP)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Part 18 OH&S Code
- As per manufacturer instructions
- Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- Defective Tool Safe Work Practice (SWP-020)
- Hazard Assessment
- CSA Approved

SELECTION AND USE:

N/A

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY:

- Notify Diversified Staffing if employee will be required to work with power/fastening tools
- Tag and remove defective tool from service
- Provide worker with replacement tool in good working condition
- To facilitate and/or provide proper instruction to their workers on protection requirements
- Required tools
- Ensure worker is trained/certified

WORKER RESPONSIBILITY:

The following general recommendations apply to all explosive/powder actuated tools.

1. Only properly trained and qualified personnel are to use this type of tool.
2. The tool must be CSA-approved for “Explosive Actuated Fastening Tools”.
3. The tool should be loaded just prior to use with the correct charge for the job anticipated. Tools should never be loaded and left alone or moved to an alternate work site after being loaded.
4. The tool should never be pointed at anyone, whether loaded or unloaded. Hands should be kept clear of the muzzle at all times.
5. Explosive/powder actuated tools should always be stored in their proper lock boxes.
6. Explosive/powder actuated tools must never be used in an explosive atmosphere.

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7. When used, the tool must be held firmly and at right angles to the surface being driven into.
8. Eye protection must be worn by the operator.
9. Where there is a danger of spalling, full face protection must be worn.
10. Appropriate hearing protection is to be worn.
11. To prevent free-flying studs, ensure that the material being driven into will not allow the stud to pass through it (glass block, hollow tile etc.).
12. Manufacturer's recommendations should be consulted and followed whenever there is a doubt about the material being driven into, maintenance procedures, or determining the charge to be used.
13. Always be aware of other workers. Where a hazard to other workers is created by this operation, properly sign and barricade the area.

****Never shoot into a surface unless you are certain it will *contain* the fastener. Take whatever time is necessary to examine both the surface and the opposite side, assuring your safety as well as the safety of others.**

****Safe operation of powder-actuated tools demands knowledge and the operator's constant alertness. Too many innocent workers have been fatally injured when safety practices were disregarded. Therefore, before each use of a powder-actuated tool, a complete study of the job task should be assessed and total concentration should be on the job task to be performed.**

For further information, see the appropriate current Occupational Health & Safety Legislation.

NOTE:

- All PPE must be inspected prior to use.

The information contained within this document does not take precedence over Occupational Health and Safety legislation. All employees should be familiar with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Regulations.

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