

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Compressed Shop Air

DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been trained and assessed to a competent level in its safe use and operation, and have been given permission to use this equipment.



Safety glasses must be worn at all times when using compressed air.



Hearing protection must be worn where noise levels are in excess of the 85 dB(A) occupational exposure limit.

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Ensure that risk assessment has been read. **UQ risk assessment task ID # 2128.**
2. Ensure no slip/trip hazards are present in workspaces and walkways.
3. Check the condition of all hoses and fittings. Hoses that are damaged or in poor condition should not be used and should be disposed of as soon as possible.
4. Listen for any air leaks from any flexible airlines and immediately report if any leaks are found.
5. Air hoses should be kept free of grease and oil to reduce the possibility of deterioration.
6. Only standard air fittings should be used on air lines.
7. Faulty equipment must not be used. Immediately report suspect machinery.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Never direct compressed air at any body parts and be aware of blowback when cleaning down equipment.
2. Air hoses should not be placed where they will create tripping hazards.
3. Never direct compressed air or blow down equipment or surfaces in the direction of bystanders.
4. Never try to catch whipping air line (keep clear and turn off at source).
5. Compressed air blows swarf, dust particles and other objects into eye(s) causing injuries.
6. Using air to clean forces the dirt and dust particles into the air, making these contaminants airborne and creating a respiratory hazard.
7. Compressed air itself is also a serious hazard. On rare occasions, some of the compressed air can enter the blood stream through a break in the skin or through a body opening. An air bubble in the blood stream is known medically as an embolism, a dangerous medical condition in which a blood vessel is blocked, in this case, by an air bubble. An embolism of an artery can cause coma, paralysis or death depending upon its size, duration and location. While this seems improbable, the consequences of even a small quantity of air or other gas in the blood can quickly be fatal.
8. Remember, compressed air, like any other tool, can be a valuable work-saving device. Use it the right way SAFELY!

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Return airline and fixtures to the correct storage location.
2. Leave the equipment and work area in a safe, clean and tidy state after job is completed.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- Unsecured hoses whipping under pressure
- Eye injuries
- High noise levels
- Flying debris

FORBIDDEN

- Never direct compressed air at any body parts

This SOP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with the machine and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed to be used as an adjunct to teaching Safety Procedures and to act as a reminder to users prior to machine use.