

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

EXPLOSIVE/POWDER ACTUATED FASTENING TOOLS

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**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: There are a number of tools utilizing an explosive charge in use to drive fastenings. The manufacturers of these devices provide detailed instructions regarding their use and maintenance. These instructions, along with the legislation specifically set out for their use, shall be closely adhered to at all times. The following general recommendations apply to all explosive/powder actuated tools.

1. Only properly trained and qualified operators are to use this type of tool. The user shall possess proof of this training issued by the manufacturer, authorized dealer/distributorship, or other competent source.
2. Eye protection must be worn by the operator. Where there is a danger of spalling, full face protection must be worn. Hearing protection is also to be worn in confined areas.
3. Always check tools prior to use to ensure they are in good working condition. Check the chamber before using to see that the barrel is clean and free from any obstruction. Clean and maintain tools in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The tool must be CSA standard approved for "Explosive Actuated Fastening Tools".
4. The tool should be loaded just prior to use with the correct load for the job anticipated. Tools should never be loaded and left to sit or be moved to an alternate work site after being loaded. Use only nails, studs, etc., recommended by the tool manufacturer.
5. The tools should never be pointed at anyone, whether loaded or unloaded. Hands should be kept clear of the muzzle end at all times.
6. The tool must be held firmly and at right angles to the surface being driven into.
7. To prevent free-flying studs, ensure that the material being driven into will not allow the stud to completely pass through it (i.e. glass block, hollow tile, etc.).
8. Explosive/powder actuated tools and cartridges should always be stored in their proper lockable boxes. Do not discard unfired cartridges carelessly.
9. Explosive/powder actuated tools must never be used in an explosive atmosphere. Adequate ventilation must be provided when using these tools in confined spaces.

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10. Use only cartridges recommended by the tool manufacturer. Check that the color of the cartridge is appropriate for the work being done. Make the first trial fixing with the weakest or lowest strength charge cartridge.
11. Manufactures' recommendations should be consulted and followed whenever there is a doubt about the material being driven into, maintenance procedures, or load strength to be used.
12. Hold the tool in fixing position for no less than 15 seconds when a tool misfires. Kept the tool pointed in a direction which will not cause injuries. Unload the cartridge with the utmost cautions.
13. Exercise caution when using tools near live electrical circuits. Ensure fastenings do not penetrate live circuits that are buried or hidden in the base material.
14. Always be aware of the other workers. Where a hazard to other workers is created by this operation, signs and barricades identifying the hazard area are mandatory.