## SAFE WORKING PROCEDURE
### Compressors And Compressed Air Equipment

**Date:** Jul 2003

### Key Hazards
1. Over pressurisation
2. High pressure air
3. Explosion
4. Overheating
5. Rupture of Hoses
6. Noise / Vibration
7. Dirty and worn air tools

### Risks
1. Injection of materials / air
2. Impact injuries from debris.
3. Injuries from whipping / snaking of failed hoses/tools.
5. Trips.

### Personal Protective Equipment
1. Suitable gloves.
2. Eye protection/face mask.
4. Suitable overalls.
5. Suitable hearing defenders.
6. Suitable respiratory equipment.
7. Head protection if applicable.

### DO
- Ensure only competent trained personnel operate any compressed air equipment.
- Use pressure regulators where appropriate for hand tools.
- Refer to COSHH assessments if applying grease, oil, paint, Abrasives etc.
- Ensure that the equipment is properly maintained.
- Ensure that the hoses are of the correct rating.
- Use low pressure high volume equipment where necessary.
- Inspect hoses etc prior to each use and report any defective equipment to line manager.
- Direct Exhaust air from hand tools away from the body.
- Ensure that fixed pipe work has appropriate markings.
- Ensure that the moving parts of the compressor are adequately guarded
- Undertake risk assessments if using compressed air equipment in awkward places.
- Ensure that air vents and pressure release valves are free from obstruction.
- Ensure that repairs are carried out by authorised personnel.
- Seek immediate medical advice if any injury is inflicted through the direct / indirect use of compressed air. (RIDDOR – Reportable occurrence).
- Undertake daily checks of drain points.

### DO NOT
- Never run the equipment in excess of the safe working pressure.
- Never use defective equipment.
- Never participate in horseplay with compressed air.
- Never use compressed air to dislodge debris or blow out cylinders.
- Never point compressed air at other people.
- Never misuse or abuse safety features or monitoring devices.
- Wear ordinary work clothes as they do not sufficiently restrict the penetration of compressed air.
- Allow the hoses to become untidy and create a trip hazard.
- Operate the equipment in excess of its vibration exposure limit.

### Specific Training Requirements
- Formal training in Compressed air tools and equipment

### References
- SWP 39 Work Equipment
- SWP 24 Inflation of tyres
- Noise at work Regulations 1989 (Revised 2000)
- COSHH regulations 1999
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) H.S.W.5 Form
- HS(G)39 Compressed Air Safety