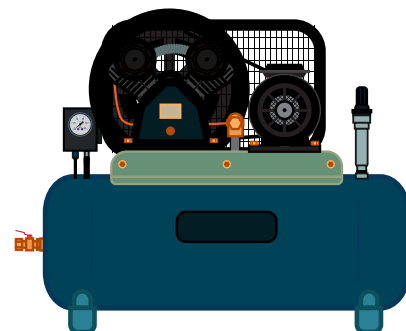


Compressed Air

Compressed air is an industrial aid used for regular plant and machinery operation. However, compressed air may cause potential significant hazards and serious risks. The improper use of compressed air can result in internal injuries, perforated eardrums, injuries, and even death. It can also led to severe damage to machinery. The Work Permit System (HSE-OHSMS-SOP-09) includes a 'High-Pressure System' intended for any activity involving the breaking or opening into any part of a pressurized system.



NEVER EVER PLAY! WITH COMPRESSED AIR

Following Health & Safety precautionary measures shall be followed whilst working with compressed air.

- Never use a compressed air hose to clean dirt or dust from your clothing or body. Even air at a pressure of 15 psig can cause serious injury.
- When using compressed air for cleaning purposes, ensure pressure does not exceed 30 psig (per OSHA regulations). Always use safety goggles or a face shield over approved safety glasses for this application to protect against flying debris.
- Exposure to excessive noise can damage hearing. Noise reducing mufflers and correct nozzles can be fitted to machines to lessen the noise hazard.
- Shut off valves and bleed down pressure before making any hose connections. Never crimp, couple, or uncouple pressurized hose. Always fit a safety chain to couplings.
- Use correct type and size of heavy duty clamps and fittings for compressed air hose. Use only the hose end fittings and connectors.
- Never use frayed, damaged or deteriorated hoses. Always store hoses properly and away from heat sources or direct sunlight.
- When blowing compressed air through a hose or airline, ensure that the open end is held securely. Open the supply air valve carefully and ensure that any ejected particles will be restrained.
- Make sure all hoses exceeding 1.27 cm internal diameter have a safety device at the source of supply or branch line to reduce the pressure in case of hose failure (per OSHA regulations).
- Isolating valves should be of the self-venting type and designed to be locking in the "off" position so that air pressure cannot be applied accidentally while the machine is being worked on.
- Air powered tools such as jackhammers, drilling machines, grinders, sand blasting, hoists and riveting guns must be subjected to scheduled maintenance inspections by competent person.
- Warning signs must be displayed around the affected working area indicating "High Pressure" and also prevent unauthorized entry.
- Use air blow gun to adjust and control air flow.
- Use of correct Personal Protective Equipment whilst using the compressed air. Ensure that the activity risk assessment identifies all hazard controls.

