

HAND AND POWER TOOL SAFETY

Introduction

Hand and power tools enable employees to apply additional force and energy to accomplish a task. The tools improve efficiency and make better products. Because of the increased force of hand and power tools, the objective of safety with the tools is to themselves and others. Disabilities resulting from misuse of tools or using damaged tools include loss of eyes and vision; puncture wounds from flying chips; severed fingers, tendons and arteries; broken bones; contusions; infections from puncture wounds; ergonomic stress, as well as many other injuries.

Applicable Regulations

- 29 CFR 1910.241 - Definitions
- 29 CFR 1910.242 - Hand and Portable Powered Tools and Equipment.
- 29 CFR 1910.243 - Guarding of Portable Powered Tools.
- 29 CFR 1910.244 - Other Portable Tools and Equipment.

Summary of Requirements

- Managers are responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees; including, tools and equipment furnished by employees.
- Compressed air cannot be used for cleaning purposes except where pressure is reduced to less than 30 psi and then only with safety glasses with side shields.
- Provide proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and have employees wear it (e.g. safety glasses, hand and arm protection, hearing protection, etc.)
- Tools must be equipped with appropriate safety switches (type is dependent on blade shank or wheel size) and must not be loaded until just prior to the intended firing time (e.g. nail gun).
- All tools and blades must be in a good condition and have the appropriate guarding. Blades of a fan must be guarded when less than 7 feet off the floor or work level.
- Use the right tool for the job and keep it in a safe place.
- Train employees to select the right tools for each job.

Inspections

- The operator inspects a tool to determine that all moving parts operate and the tool is clean.
- Remove a tool that malfunctions from service immediately.
- Inspect tools at regular intervals and repair tools in accordance with the manufacturers' specification.

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