

## 5.0 SAFETY IN THE USE OF HAND TOOLS AND POWER-OPERATED TOOLS

### 5.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- a. All hands and power tools and similar equipment, shall be maintained in safe condition.
- b. When power operated tools are designed to accommodate guards, they shall be equipped with such guards, when in use;
- c. Belts, gears, shafts, pulleys, sprockets, spindles, drums, fly wheels, chains and other reciprocating, rotating or moving parts of the equipment shall be similarly guarded;
- d. Personnel using hand and power tools and exposed to the hazard of falling, flying, abrasive, and splashing objects, or exposed to harmful dusts, fumes, mists, vapours, or gases shall be provided with the particular personal protective equipment necessary to protect them from the hazards;
- e. All hand-held powered platen sanders, grinders, grinders with wheels of 5 cm or less, routers, planers, laminate trimmers, nibblers, shears, scroll saws and jigsaws with blade shanks of 0.5 cm wide or less shall be equipped with only a positive **on-off control**.
- f. All hand-held powered drills, tappers, fastener drivers, horizontal, vertical or angle grinders with wheels greater than 5 cm in diameter, disc sanders, belt sanders, reciprocating saws, saber saws and other operating powered tools shall be equipped with a momentary contact on control provided that turnoff can be accomplished by a single motion of the same finger or fingers that turn it on.

### 5.2. HAND TOOLS

- a. The contractor shall not issue or permit the use of unsafe hand tools;
- b. Wrenches including adjustable pipe end and socket wrenches shall not be used when saws are sprung to the point that slippage occurs;
- c. Impact tools such as drift pins, wedges and chisels shall be kept free of mushroomed heads;
- d. The wooden handles of tools shall be kept free of splinters or cracks and shall be kept tight on the tools.

### 5.3. POWER OPERATED TOOLS

- a. Electric power operated tools shall be either of the approved double-insulated type or shall be grounded;
- b. The use of electric cords for hoisting or lowering loads shall not be permitted;
- c. Pneumatic power tools shall be secured to the hose or whip by some positive means to prevent the tool from becoming accidentally disconnected;
- d. Safety clips or retainers shall be securely installed or maintained on pneumatic impact (percussion) tools to prevent attachments from being accidentally expelled;
- e. All pneumatically riveting machine staplers and other similar equipment provided with automatic fastener feed, which operate at more than  $7 \text{ kg/cm}^2$  pressure at the tool a safety device on the



- muzzle to prevent the tool from ejecting the fasteners unless the muzzle is in contact with the work surface;
- f. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except when the pressure is reduced to less than 2 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and that too with effective chip guarding. The 2 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> pressure requirement does not apply to concrete form, mill scale and similar cleaning purposes;
  - g. The manufacturer's safe operating for hoses, pipes, valves, filters and other fittings shall not be exceeded;
  - h. Only personnel who has been trained in the operation of the particular tool shall be allowed to operate power-actuated tools;
  - i. The tool shall be tested each day before loading to see that the safety devices are in proper working condition. The method of testing shall be accordance with the manufacturer's recommended procedure;
  - j. Any tool found not in proper working order, or that which develops a defect during use, shall be immediately removed from service and not used until properly repaired;
  - k. Tools shall not be loaded until just prior to the intended firing time. Neither loaded nor empty tools are to be pointed at any other person. Hands shall be kept clear of the open barrel end;
  - l. Loaded tools shall not be left unattended;
  - m. Fasteners shall not be driven into very hard or brittle materials including, but not limited to, cast iron, glazed tiles, surface hardened steel, glass block, live rock, face brick or hollow tiles;
  - n. Driving into materials that can be easily penetrated shall be avoided unless backed by a substance that will prevent the pin or fastener from passing completely through and creating a flying missile hazard on the other side;
  - o. No fastener shall be driven into a palled area caused by an unsatisfactory fastening;
  - p. Only non-sparking tools shall be used in an explosive or flammable atmosphere;
  - q. All tools shall be used with the correct shield, guard or attachment as recommended by the manufacturer.

#### **5.4. ABRASIVE WHEELS AND TOOLS**

- a. All grinding machines shall be supplied with sufficient power to maintain the spindle speed at safe levels under all conditions of normal operation;
- b. Grinding machines shall be equipped with suitable safety guards;
- c. The maximum angular exposure of the grinding wheel periphery and sides shall not be more than 90°, except that when the work requires contact with the wheel below the horizontal plane of the spindle, the angular exposure shall not exceed 120°. In either case, the exposure shall begin not more than 65° above the horizontal plane of the spindle. Safety guards shall be strong enough to withstand the bursting of the wheel;
- d. Floor and bench-mounted grinders shall be work-rests, which shall be rigidly supported and readily adjustable. Such work-rests shall be kept at a distance not to exceed 5 mm from the surface of the wheel;

- e. Cup type wheels used for external grinding shall be protected by either revolving cup guard or a band type guard;
- f. When safety guards are required, they shall be mounted as to maintain proper alignment with the wheel and the guard and the guard and its fastening shall be adequate strength to retain the fragments of the wheel in case of accidental breakage. The maximum angular exposure of the grinding wheel periphery and sides shall not exceed 180°;
- g. Portable abrasive wheel used for internal grinding shall be provided with suitable safety flanges;
- h. When safety flanges are required, they shall be used only with wheels designed to fit the flanges. Only safety flanges, of a type and design and properly assembled so as to ensure that the pieces of the wheel will be retained in case of accidental breakage, shall be used;
- i. All abrasive wheels shall be closely inspected and ring tested before mounting to ensure that they are free from cracks or defects;
- j. Grinding wheels shall fit freely on the spindle and shall not be forced on. The spindle nut shall be tightened only enough to hold the wheel in place;
- k. All employees using abrasive wheels shall be protected by suitable eye protection equipment.

## **5.5. WOODWORKING TOOLS**

- a. All fixed power driven woodworking tools shall be provided with a disconnect switch that can either be locked or tagged in the **off-position**;
- b. The operating speed shall be attached or otherwise permanently marked on all circular saws over 0.5 m in diameter or operating at over 3000 peripheral rpm. Any saw so marked shall not be operated at a speed other than that marked on the blade. When a marked saw is retensioned for a different speed, the marking shall be corrected to show the new speed;
- c. Automatic feeding devices shall be installed on machines wherever the nature of the work will permit. Feeder attachments shall have the feed rolls or other moving parts covered or guarded so as to protect the operator from hazardous points;
- d. All portable power driven circular saws shall be equipped with guards above and below the base plate or shoe. The upper guard shall cover the saw to the depth of the teeth, except for the minimum arc required to permit the base to be tilted for bevel cuts. The lower guard shall cover the saw to the depth of the teeth, except for the minimum arc required to allow proper retraction and contact with the work. When the tool is withdrawn from the work, the lower guard shall automatically and instantly return to the covering position.

