

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST LIKELY HAZARDS

Noise

- Ear protection complying with EN352 is recommended for all applications where the workpiece or machine is hand-held, irrespective of the noise level.
- Ensure that the correct abrasive product is selected. An unsuitable product can produce excessive noise.

Vibration

- Processes where the workpiece or machine is hand-held can cause vibration injury.
- Action needs to be taken if tingling, pins and needles or numbness is experienced after 10 minutes continuous use of the abrasive product.
- The effects of vibration are more pronounced in cold conditions so keep the hands warm and exercise hands and fingers regularly. Use modern equipment with low vibration levels.
- Maintain all equipment in good condition and stop the machine and have it checked if excessive vibration occurs.
- Use good quality abrasive products and keep them in good condition during their life.
- Maintain mounting flanges and back-up pads in good condition and replace if worn or distorted.
- Do not grip the workpiece or machine too tightly and do not exert excessive pressure on the abrasive product.
- Avoid continuous use of the abrasive product.
- Use the correct product. An unsuitable product can produce excessive vibration.
- Don't ignore the physical symptoms of vibration - seek medical advice.

DISPOSAL OF ABRASIVES

- Used or defective abrasives should be disposed in accordance with local or national regulations.
- Further information can be obtained from Voluntary Product Information provided by the supplier.
- Be aware that the abrasive product may be contaminated with material from the workpiece or process after use.
- Disposed abrasive products should be damaged to prevent them from being taken from waste skips and re-used.



Federation of European
Producers of Abrasives

www.fepa-abrasives.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information supplied in this leaflet is accurate and up to date. We cannot accept, however, responsibility for any error or omission, nor for any consequential loss or damage so arising (E & OE).

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SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF ABRASIVE PRODUCTS

PASS ON THIS LEAFLET TO THOSE USING THE ABRASIVE PRODUCT

The recommendations contained in this leaflet should be followed by all users of abrasive products in the interests of their personal safety

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF SAFETY

Abrasive products improperly used can be very dangerous.

- Always follow the instructions provided by the abrasive product and machine supplier.
- Ensure that the abrasive product is suitable for its intended use. Examine all abrasive products for damage or defects before mounting.
- Follow the correct procedures for handling and storage of abrasive products.

Be aware of the hazards likely during the use of abrasive products and observe the recommended precautions to be taken:

- Bodily contact with the abrasive product at operating speed.
- Injury resulting from product breakage during use.
- Grinding debris, sparks, fumes and dust generated by the grinding process.
- Noise.
- Vibration.

Use only abrasive products conforming to the highest standards of safety. The following EN standards provide the essential safety requirements for relevant abrasives products.

- EN12413 for Bonded Abrasives.
- EN13236 for Superabrasives.
- EN13743 for Specific Coated Abrasives (vulcanised fibre discs, flap wheels, flap discs and spindle-mounted flap wheels).

Never use a machine that is not in good working order or one with defective parts.

Employers should carry out a risk assessment on all individual abrasive processes to determine the appropriate protective measures necessary. They should ensure that their employees are suitably trained to carry out their duties.

This leaflet is only intended to provide basic safety recommendations. For more detailed information on the safe use of abrasive products, reference to our comprehensive Safety Codes is strongly recommended.

These are available from FEPA or your National Trade Association:

- FEPA Safety Code for Bonded Abrasives and Precision Superabrasives.
- FEPA Safety Code for Superabrasives for Stone and Construction.
- FEPA Safety Code for Coated Abrasives.