

EXPLOSIVE/POWDER ACTUATED TOOLS SAFE WORK PRACTICES

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OH&S PART 25, SECTION 374

A number of tools use an explosive charge to drive fastenings. The manufacturers of these devices provide detailed instructions and certification regarding their use, and the instructions must be followed at all times.

Explosive/Powder actuated tools safe work practices

Observe the following safe work practices when using explosive/powder actuated tools:

- Only properly trained and qualified operators may use explosive/powder actuated tools
- The operator of an explosive/powder actuated tool must be familiar with the operating manual issued by the manufacturer and the company HAA.
- The operator of an explosive/powder actuated tool must be familiar with the provincial regulations governing its use
- The explosive/powder actuated tool must be CSA standard approved for “Explosive Actuated Fastening Tools”
- The explosive/powder actuated tool must be loaded pin first then the charge just prior to use with the correct load for the job anticipated
- **Do not** load an explosive/powder actuated tool and let it sit while loaded
- **Do not** move a loaded explosive/powder actuated tool to another site
- **Do not** point an explosive/powder actuated tool at anyone, regardless of whether it is loaded or unloaded
- Keep hands clear of the muzzle end of an explosive/powder actuated tool at all times
- **Do not** use an explosive/powder actuated tool in an explosive or flammable atmosphere
- Hold an explosive/powder actuated tool firmly at right angles to the surface being driven into
- Wear eye and hearing protection when using an explosive/powder actuated tool
- Where there is a danger of fragments flying, wear full-face protection
- To prevent free-flying studs, ensure that the material being driven into will allow the nail to completely pass through it
- Make sure that no one is working behind the material that the fasteners are being driven into
- The manufacturer’s recommendations should be consulted and followed whenever there is a doubt about the material being driven into, the load strength to be used, or the maintenance procedures



- A worker must be authorized by the Foreman or Supervisor to operate an explosive/powder actuated tool
- Unqualified persons are not permitted to repair explosive/powder actuated tools.

USE OF CHARGE CARTRIDGES

- USE only cartridges recommended by the tool manufacturer.
- CHECK that the color of the cartridge is appropriate for work being done. Charge cartridges are colour-coded for strength.
- MAKE the first trial firing with the weakest of lowest strength charge cartridge.
- PROVIDE adequate ventilation in confined spaces where explosive actuated tools are used.
- HOLD the tool in firing position for no less than 30 seconds when a tool misfires. Repeat procedure again. Keep the tool pointed in a direction that will not cause injuries. Unload the spent cartridge with the utmost caution.
- EXERCISE caution when using tools near live electrical circuits. Ensure fastenings do not penetrate live circuits that are buried or hidden in the base material.
- KEEP cartridges in a lock up when not in use.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT to force a cartridge into a tool.
- DO NOT DISCARD unused cartridges carelessly.
- DO NOT CARRY cartridges loose or in a pocket. Carry them in the manufacturer's package or in approved containers.