

HAND AND POWER TOOLS



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General

All power tools whether furnished by Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. or by the employee shall be maintained in a safe condition. Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. shall have the right to remove from service any tool it deems defective, damaged, or that is not in compliance with its applicable requirements or standards. It shall be identified as unsafe by tagging or locking the controls to render inoperable until it can be removed from the worksite.

Maintenance

Hand tools and power tools shall be inspected prior to use and maintained in a safe operating condition and used only for the purpose for which they were designed. Damaged and defective tools shall be tagged “Do Not Use”, repaired, replaced or removed from service. Any tool removed from service shall be inspected for verification of repair prior to returning it to service.

Storage

Tools shall not be left on scaffolds or elevated workspaces, and containers shall be provided for hand tools at the job site.

Guarding

Tools designed to accommodate guards shall only be operated with such guards in place. Guards will be operable at all times and may not be manipulated in such a way that will compromise its integrity or compromise the protection in which it was intended. Guarding shall meet requirements set forth in ANSI B15. Belts, gears, pulleys, sprockets, spindles, drums, and other type moving drives shall be guarded.

Grounding

Electric-powered tools shall be the double-insulated type or effectively grounded.

Switches

On-off switches controlling the operation of hand-held powered tools shall conform to the following:

- ❑ Hand-held powered sanders and grinders with 2-inch or less diameter wheels may be equipped with only a positive “on-off” switch.
- ❑ Hand-held powered drills, tappers, fasteners drivers, horizontal, vertical, and angle grinders with wheels exceeding 2 inches in diameter, disk sanders, belt sanders, reciprocating saws, and similar tools shall be equipped with a momentary contact “on-off” control. They may have a lock-on control provided a single motion of the same finger(s) that turn it on can shut off the power.
- ❑ Jackhammers, and similar pneumatic-powered tools, except concrete vibrators, shall be equipped with a constant pressure switch that shuts off power when pressure is released.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Hand tool and power tool operators shall be provided with and use respective types of PPE as set forth in the applicable OSHA standards and/or Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. Personal Protective Equipment Policy. Employees using hand and power tools that are exposed to the hazard of falling, flying, abrasive and splashing objects or exposed to harmful dust, fumes, mist vapors and/or gases shall be provided with particular PPE necessary to protect them from the hazard.

Hazardous Conditions

Only non-sparking tools shall be used in locations where sources of ignition may cause an explosion or fire. Gasoline powered tools shall not be used underground or in locations where toxic exhaust gases can accumulate. Impact tools including drift pins, wedges, and chisels shall be kept in a dressed condition or equipped with non-mushrooming heads. Employees shall not work under areas where handheld tools are being used unless the tools are equipped with restraining straps, or appropriate decking or planking is provided for employee protection.

Pneumatic Impact Tools

Pneumatic tools shall be operated with safety clips or retainers installed to prevent tools from being accidentally discharged from the chuck.

Air Hoses

All connections, couplings, and splices in air lines exceeding 0.5 inch inside diameter shall be equipped with clips, and wire rope or chain lashings. The clips and lashings shall be installed in a manner that prevents whipping of the loose line should that connection coupling or splice fail.

Compressed Air

Compressed air shall not be directed at any part of the body and shall not be used for cleaning purposes except when reduced to less than 30 psi and the operator protected by PPE as set forth in the applicable OSHA standard.

Nailers

Pneumatically driven nailers, staplers, and similar equipment provided with automatic fasteners feed, which operate at more than 100 psi shall have a safety device on the muzzle to prevent the ejection of the fasteners unless the muzzle is in contact with the work surface.

Grinding Tools

Grinding tools shall not be used without the proper guards, protective flanges, and tool rests installed and maintained in proper adjustment.

Abrasive Wheels

Abrasive wheels and scratch brushes shall not be operated in excess of their rated safe speed. Cracked or defective abrasive wheels shall be removed from service immediately. Ring tests should be performed as recommended by the manufacturer.

Switches

Switches shall be located to enable the operator to cut off the power without leaving his operating position. Fixed power driven tools shall be provided with a disconnect switch that can be locked in the off position.

Automatic Feed

Whenever the nature of the work will permit, automatic feed devices shall be installed on fixed power driven woodworking tools. Feeder attachments shall have the feed rolls and/or other moving parts guarded to protect the operator.

Push Sticks

A push stick, or similar safe means shall be used for all operations close to high-speed cutting edges.

Planers and Joiners

Planers and joiners shall be equipped with cylindrical cutting heads and fully guarded.

Bandsaws

Bandsaw blades shall be fully enclosed except at the point of operation.

Cleanup

Work areas shall be kept clean and a brush provided to remove sawdust, chips, and shavings.

Circular Saws

Bench type circular saws shall be equipped with spreaders, anti-kickback devices, and guards that automatically enclose the exposed cutting edges. Portable handheld circular saws shall be equipped with guards above and below the base plate. Power saws shall not be left running unattended. Portable power saws shall be unplugged from their power source when unattended.

Hydraulic Powered Tools

The manufacturers safe operating pressure for hoses, valves, pipes, filters, and fittings shall not be exceeded.

Powder-Actuated Tools

Powder-actuated tools shall be operated and serviced only by persons who have been trained and certified in the safe use of such tools. Operators must possess an operator's card issued by a firm or person authorized to issue such cards, usually the equipment manufacturer or sales representative.

Flammable Atmospheres

Powder-actuated tools shall not be used in explosive or flammable atmospheres.

Studs and Fasteners

Only powder charges, studs, or fasteners specified by the manufacturer for the specific tool shall be used.

Power Loads

Cased and caseless power loads shall be coded to identify power load levels by case color. In the event of a misfire, the operator shall hold the tool firmly against the work surface for a period of 30 seconds and then follow the instructions set forth in the manufacturers instructional manual.

Materials

Driving into soft or easily penetrated material is prohibited unless the material is backed to prevent complete penetration. Tools shall not be used on very hard or brittle materials such as cast iron, glazed tile, and surfaced hardened steel, glass block, face brick, or hollow tile.

Use

Tools shall not be loaded until just prior to firing. Loaded tools shall not be left unattended, pointed at any person, and all parts of the body shall be kept clear of the muzzle.

Storage

Powder-actuated tools and power loads shall be locked in a container and stored in a safe place when not in use and shall be accessible only by authorized persons.

General Inspection Form

This form is used to document inspections of rigging equipment, ladders and harnesses.

Item Inspected	# Inspected	# OK	# Defective	# O/S	# Repaired
Example: Wire rope chokers	4	3	1	1	0
Nylon Slings					
Safety Harnesses					
Ladders					

Location: _____

Month & Color Code: _____

Date of Inspection: _____

Next Inspection Date: _____

Inspector Name and Title: _____