

PURPOSE/APPLICATION

Strike shall minimize risks to personnel, equipment, property and the environment by operating and maintaining air compressors, hoses and related equipment in a safe manner.

PPE

- Strike minimum requirements
- Gloves
- Goggles

TRAINING

- WHMIS

HAZARDS & CONCERNS

- Injury
- Noise
- Pressure
- Flying Objects

PRECAUTIONS

- All compressors must be equipped with pressure relief valves and pressure gauges.
- All compressor air intakes must be installed and equipped to ensure that only clean, uncontaminated air enters the compressor.
- Every air receiver must be provided with a drain valve at the lowest point for the removal of accumulated oil and water.
- Compressed air receivers must be periodically drained of moisture and oil. All air lines and/or hoses shall be equipped with locking quick disconnect fittings.
- Hoses shall be checked prior to use for defects or damage, and defective hoses shall be repaired or replaced.
- Ensure all air pressure sources have been shut off and residual air pressure relieved before disconnecting tools or hoses.
- Compressed air must never be used to blow debris from workers clothing.
- All rotating equipment must be guarded (pulleys and belts)
- Pressure released devices must be inspected as per manufactures specifications.

REFERENCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

REGULATIONS

Alberta OHS Code - Part 10 Fire and Explosion Hazards

171 Compressed and Liquefied Gas

A worker must ensure that

- a. compressed gas equipment designed to be used with a specific gas is only used with that gas,*
- b. the cylinder valve is shut off and pressure in the hose is released when cutting or welding is not in progress,*
- c. sparks, flames or other sources of ignition are not allowed to come in contact with the cylinders, regulators or hoses of a compressed or liquefied gas system, and*

d. *compressed air is not used to blow dust or other substances from clothing.*

Saskatchewan OHS Regulation

Prohibition re use of compressed air 27

No employer shall require or permit compressed air to be directed towards a worker:

- a. *for the purpose of cleaning clothing or personal protective equipment used by that worker; or*
- b. *for any other purpose if the use of compressed air may cause dispersion into the air of contaminants that may be harmful to workers.*

British Columbia OHS Regulation - Part 4 General Conditions

Work Area Requirements

Cleaning with compressed air 4.42

- 1. *Compressed air or steam must not be used for blowing dust, chips, or other substances from equipment, materials and structures if any person could be exposed to the jet, or to the material it expels or propels and an injury or health hazard due to fire, explosion or other cause is likely to result.*
- 2. *Subject to subsection (4) compressed air may not be used for blowing harmful or hazardous dusts or other harmful substances from clothing being worn by workers.*
- 3. *If clothing is to be cleaned before leaving the work area, suitable cleaning equipment must be used.*
- 4. *Compressed air may be used in specially designated areas for blowing dusts or other substances from clothing being worn by workers, provided that*
 - a. *the substances have an exposure limit greater than 1.0 mg/m³, as established by section 5.48,*
 - b. *appropriate respiratory and eye protection is worn,*
and the compressed air supply pressure is limited to a pressure of 70 kPa gauge (10 psig), or safety nozzles which have the same pressure limiting effect are used.

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