

Abrasive Wheels

The majority of accidents involving abrasive wheels are due to the wrong type of disc being fitted to machines.

General

- Only authorised and trained persons are permitted to mount abrasive wheels.
- The speed of the machine must not exceed the maximum permissible speed of the wheel.
- Do not exert heavy pressure on the wheel.
- Know the health hazards and take the necessary precautions:
 - Noise: Wear hearing protection
 - Dust: Use water suppression, wear respiratory protection (FFP3)
 - Vibration: Keep maintained, good condition discs, know how long you can use
- Always wear eye protection - Grade 1 impact protection (marked BS EN 166 B)
- Be aware of others in the area, don't put them at risk – from sparks, for example.

Portable Tools

- Use the right type of disc, reinforced stone or diamond disc for concrete, reinforced steel disc for rebar.
- Don't use the side of a cutting disc for grinding.
- Adjust the guard to expose the minimum amount of wheel surface necessary for the operation.
- Ensure work area clear and you have secure footing.
- Don't walk and carry the tool whilst it is running.

Bench-Mounted Tools

- Adjust the tool rest as close as possible to the face of the wheel.
- Keep the glass screen in the safety position.
- Keep your fingers below the tool rest level.
- Use the correct grade of wheel for the work in hand.
- Stop the wheel when not in use.

Questions:

- 1 What are the health hazards when using abrasive wheels?
- 2 What should the relationship be between the machine and the disc?
- 3 What are the various types of disc, and what can they/can they not be used for?

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 22