

Compressed Air Tools

Compressed air and associated tools can present a range of hazards, from noise to explosion.

Great care and consideration of others is vital to their safe use.

- Ensure that tools are in good condition, regularly maintained and serviced and that matching connections are used - stop and report if not.
- When connecting, check hose joints are clear of dirt or moisture and that hoses have no holes, splits or signs of “ballooning”.
- Always check your connections before starting work:-
 - to compressed air, not some other source
 - whip check fittings on all joints
- Always use attachments that are correct for the tool and the activity being undertaken.
- Know the health hazards and take the necessary precautions:-
 - Noise: wear hearing protection
 - Dust: use water suppression where possible, wear respiratory protection
 - Vibration: keep maintained, good condition/sharp tools, know how long you can use
- Consider those around you – for example, don’t use an air lance to blow out, in the vicinity or towards others.
- The air tool lever should be released before moving tool.
- Before disconnecting any air tool, turn off compressor air supply first, then exhaust air in the line via the tool, before disconnecting.

Questions:

- 1 What are the health hazards when using compressed air tools?
- 2 How should air tools be disconnected?
- 3 What checks should be made before starting work?

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 13