

POWDER ACTUATED TOOLS

1. Task

Correct and safe use of powder actuated tools

2. Hazards

Injuries to eyes and other body parts, flying debris, premature discharge of explosive cartridges.

3. Controls

Pre-Job Safety Assessment (PSA). Adequate training completes with documentation, adequate use of PPE, manufacturer's specifications and guidelines.

- ❖ Only trained, competent and authorized persons familiar with the regulations governing the use of the tool, shall use it. All training must be documented.
- ❖ Use the Canadian Standards Association Standard series Z166-M85 "Safety Code for Powder-Actuated Tools" as a guide for safe operation and maintenance of the tool.
- ❖ Wear safety glasses or a face shield and adequate hearing protection when operating this type of tool.
- ❖ Wear appropriate respiratory protection if using lead shot.
- ❖ Clean and maintain tools according to the manufacturers' instructions.
- ❖ Check tools before use to ensure that they are in good working order.
- ❖ Tag defective tools "Out of service" and remove from service until properly repaired.
- ❖ Store tools and cartridges in a locked container when they are not in use. Ensure that the tool is unloaded before storing it.
- ❖ Use the tool at right angles to the work surface.
- ❖ Check the chamber to see that the barrel is clean and free from any obstruction, before using the tool.
- ❖ Use only the projectiles (fasteners, nails, studs, etc.) and cartridges recommended by the tool manufacturer.
- ❖ Ensure that the base material has no holes or openings and is of enough consistency to prevent a projectile from passing completely through.
- ❖ Do not load a tool until immediately before use.
- ❖ Check that the colour of the cartridge is appropriate for work being done. Charge cartridges are colour-coded to show their strength.
- ❖ All spent or misfired shot in a shall be disposed of as per manufacturer's specifications and classified as Hazardous Waste for disposal purposes.
- ❖ Provide adequate ventilation in confined spaces where powder-actuated tools are used.
- ❖ Hold the tool in the firing position for at least 5 seconds after firing. If a cartridge misfires, keep the tool pointed in a direction that will not cause injury to you or others and unload the cartridge with extreme caution. Place the misfired cartridge into a bucket of water.
- ❖ Use caution when using tools near live electrical circuits. Ensure that the nails (etc.) do not enter live circuits 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 carry cartridges loose or in a pocket, carry them in the manufacturer's package.
- ❖ Thoroughly wash hands and face after using the tool and prior to eating, smoking or drinking to remove residue created by the ignition of cartridges.