



Hand and Power Tool Safety

HAND AND POWER TOOLS ENABLE EMPLOYEES

to apply additional force and energy to accomplish a task. These tools improve efficiency and make better products. Because of the increased force of hand and power tools, the objective of safety with these tools is to themselves and others. Disabilities resulting from misuse of tools or using damaged tools include loss of eyes and vision; puncture wounds from flying chips; severed fingers, tendons and arteries; broken bones; contusions; infections from puncture wounds; ergonomic stress, as well as many other injuries.



Summary of Requirements

- Each employer shall be responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees, including tools and equipment that may be furnished by employees.
- Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where pressure is reduced to less than 30psi, and then only with safety glasses that have side shields.
- Provide and make sure your employees use proper personal protective equipment (e.g., safety glasses, hand and arm protection, hearing protection, etc.)
- Tools must be equipped with appropriate safety switches (type is dependent on blade shank or wheel size) and must not be loaded until just prior to the intended firing time (e.g., nail gun).
- In general, all tools and blades must be in good working condition and have the appropriate guarding. Blades of a fan must be guarded when less than 7 feet off the floor or work level.
- Train employees to select the right tools for each job and store the tools in a safe place.

Inspections

- Before using a tool, the operator shall inspect it to determine that all moving parts are clean and in good working condition.
- Any tool that is malfunctioning shall be immediately removed from service.
- Tools must be inspected at regular intervals and shall be repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.