Safe Operating Procedures

SOP 08 – Air Compressor

**DO NOT** use this tool unless appropriately instructed in its safe use and operation and permission to operate has been given.

**COMPULSORY PPE**

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**PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS**

1. Check compressor and motor oil levels and top up as required. (For petrol powered motor and electric powered compressors). Refer to operator manual.
2. Examine power lead for obvious damage (for electric motor compressors)
3. Check that drive belt and pulley guards are fitted, secure and functional.
4. Check the drive belts are properly tensioned.
5. Examine all air hoses, connections and couplings.
6. Check any air tools and accessories for serviceability.
7. Locate and be familiar with ON/OFF controls.
8. Faulty equipment must not be used. Report faulty machinery immediately.

**OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS**

1. Start the compressor noting the pressure gauge increase and the cut-in / cut-out pressure levels.
2. ALWAYS OPERATE AS DIRECTED IN THE OPERATOR MANUAL.
3. Listen for any air leaks from all airlines or hoses. Do not continue if there are any leaks.
4. Adjust the pressure regulator to suit the particular work requirements.
5. Always check these pressures at regular intervals during normal operation.
6. Air hose connections must be secured and checked prior to being pressurized.
7. If portable, position the compressor unit in an area that will not disturb or obstruct the workshop environment.
8. Use compressed air power tools responsibly and within manufacturers’ recommended guidelines.
9. Compressed air cleaning of machine parts must only be undertaken after all PPE and general workshop safety precautions have been observed.
10. Never use the compressed air to clean down work benches, floors or dust from clothing.
11. Never kink or cut off an air hose to restrict the flow of air.
12. Never direct compressed air towards the body.
13. When inflating tyres, inflate in 5 PSI (34.5 kpa) increments.
14. Do not stand in front of tyre walls or leave inflating tyres unattended.
15. Only inflate split rim tyres in a tyre cage.
16. DO NOT fill / refuel hot motor or with motor running.

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This SOP should be used in conjunction with relevant machinery manuals and manufacturer recommendations.
Safe Operating Procedures

HOUSEKEEPING
1. Clean away any oil and debris from in and around engine and compressor when job complete.
2. Keep the work area in a clean and tidy condition.
3. Roll up hoses at end of work and store handles to avoid damage.
4. Check and drain air tank and lines for water as per manufacturer’s recommendations.
5. Check compressor motor for lubricating oil.
6. Ensure drive belts are tensioned as per manufacturer’s recommendation.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS
1. Noise & dust - Move the air compressor outside or move bystanders. Wear hearing/eye protection
2. Electricity - RCD circuit, check cords
3. Compressed Air - Do not point towards any body part. Avoid exposure when checking hoses for leaks.

SPECIAL NOTE
NO PERSONNEL ARE TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO OBTAINING:
- COMPETANCY IN THE CORRECT USE OF THE EQUIPMENT
- READING AND FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE OPERATOR’S MANUAL
- READING THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
- UNDERGOING THOROUGH PRACTICAL TRAINING WHILE PROPERLY SUPERVISED
- SUPERVISOR TO ENSURE THE SOP’S SIGN OFF

All completed SOPs are to be recorded in TRIM Container A17/2181 utilising a TRIM license in your School/Business Unit. Completed SOPs are to be published on Safety Hub for ongoing utilisation.

Employee Name: ___________________________________________________________
Employee Signature: ____________________________ Date: _________________

Supervisor Name: __________________________________________________________________
Supervisor Signature: ____________________________ Date: _________________

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