

1 Purpose	To outline the requirements for the safe use of compressed air tools and equipment.
2 Application	Applies to all NTPC employees and contractors required to operate compressed air tools and equipment.
3 Definitions	<p>Compressed Air Air kept under a pressure that is greater than atmospheric pressure. It serves many domestic and industrial purposes.</p> <p>Compressed Air Receiver The tank storing compressed air.</p> <p>Air-Powered Tool A tool driven by compressed air supplied by an air compressor.</p>
4 References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWT Safety Act 1988 • NWT Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2015 • NWT Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act 1988
5 Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air compressor • Air hoses • Air impact wrench • Air ratchet • Airbrush • Blow gun • Jackhammer • Pneumatic angle grinder • Pneumatic drill • Pneumatic jack • Pneumatic nail gun • Sandblaster • Paint sprayer
6 PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSA-approved Class E hard hat with full-face shield • CSA-approved safety glasses • CSA-approved foot protection • High-visibility clothing • Work gloves • CSA-approved hearing protection

<p>7 Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed of any risk associated with, trained on, and deemed competent in, the safe operation of compressed air equipment.
<p>8 Work Practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When working with air compressors and air tools, wear the appropriate personal protective equipment including eye, face, and hearing protection. Ensure other workers in the area are made aware of or have restricted access to the hazardous area. Air compressors shall be inspected annually by a qualified inspector. The inspection certificate shall be mounted near the air receiver in clear view. Air compressors that are under 43 L in capacity and operate at a pressure less than 15 psi are exempt from this requirement. Compressors that are used infrequently shall be inspected once a month. Workers shall look for damage to the tank and hoses and shall operate the drain valve to remove any water build-up inside the tank. Air compressors and tanks shall be equipped with a pressure gauge and a pressure relief valve. Pressure relief valves shall be tested by workers annually to ensure they function as intended. Testing is done by simply pulling on the valve and ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air escapes; The valve returns to the original position when released; and The valve is in good operating condition and moves freely. A proper pressure regulator and relief device shall be included in the system to ensure that correct pressures are maintained. Air tanks shall be equipped with a drain pipe and valve at the lowest point for the removal of accumulated oil and water. Air tanks shall be bled of air at the end of each day using the drain pipe valve. Hearing protection shall be worn during this process. Moving parts on air compressors (e.g., pulleys, belts) shall be guarded on all sides accessible to workers. The correct air supply hoses shall be used for the tools and equipment being used. Hoses shall be checked on a regular basis for cuts, bulges, and other damage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any defective tools or equipment, including hoses, shall be immediately removed from service, tagged with a Special Instructions Tag with the appropriate message (e.g., out of service for repair), and reported to the manager. Replace damaged tools and equipment immediately – do not use defective tools temporarily. Air-powered tools shall be used according to manufacturer's specifications. Air pressure shall be turned off and line pressure released before disconnecting the hose or changing air tools. Any hose that may whip shall be attached to a rope or chain to prevent whipping. Air hoses, tools, and connectors shall be neatly and properly stored to prevent accidental damage from sun, hydrocarbons, and physical impacts. Do not direct compressed air towards oneself or others. Compressed air shall not be used to blow dust or other substances from clothing.
9 Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air compressor inspection certificate Inspection and maintenance records

Development

Name	Position	Date
Prepared by: J. Clark	Environmental Analyst	Aug. 12, 2014
Reviewed by: A. Crowther	Health & Safety Coordinator	Feb. 22, 2016
Approved by: E. Smith	Director, Health, Safety & Environment	Jun. 07, 2016

Revision History

#	Revised Sections	Description of Revisions	Revised by (name, position)	Approved by (name, position)	Issue Date
01					
02					
03					
04					
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