

 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY Facilities Management Air Compressors Safe Work Instructions	<i>Policy Sponsor:</i> Assistant Vice President Facilities Management	<i>Approval Date:</i> January 2010
	<i>Responsible Unit:</i> Facilities Management	<i>Revisions:</i>
Service: All Services	Shop: All Shops	
Hazards Identified: Dust and flying debris, Injection of air under skin, noise, electrical shock or electrocution, explosion, fire, inhalation carbon monoxide / toxic vapours or solids, hot surfaces, getting caught in moving parts		
Personal Protective Equipment Required: Hearing protection, goggles and/or face shield, safety boots, hand protection, respiratory protection		
Training Required: Before using this equipment employees must be trained by a competent person in its proper use and care and in the proper use and maintenance of all required PPE.		

These safe work practices must be followed at all times and are to be reviewed annually.

1. Do not use this equipment unless you have been properly trained in its use and have demonstrated the required level of competence.
2. The required personal protective equipment must be used at all times while this equipment is being operated.
3. Always read and follow the manufacturer's operating manual, particularly information about start-up, operation, shut-down and maintenance.
4. This equipment is to be maintained by a qualified competent person.
5. Do not use anything other than manufacturer approved parts when performing maintenance and repairs.

6. Never compromise the integrity of the compressor tank by attempting to alter it in any way.
7. Ensure the compressor tank is kept clean and in good condition.
8. Do not repair a damaged pressure tank, replace it immediately.
9. Do not make adjustment to factory pressure settings.
10. Check belts and pulleys and hoses (for leaks) before each use.
11. Check the discharge line before each use.
12. Never use a plastic pipe or lead tin soldered joints for a discharge line.
13. Ensure the compressor is always plugged into a properly grounded plug.
14. Ensure that the power cord is checked regularly for signs of crushing, cracks or cuts or heat damage.
15. Do not operate this equipment if it is defective in any way.
16. Do not allow power cords to lie in water.
17. After starting, ensure that all lights and gauges are working properly.
18. Always operate the air compressor in a well ventilated area.
19. Do not inhale air from the compressor.
20. Do not operate the compressor if safety guards or covers have been removed or are damaged.
21. After starting the compressor listen for any noises that might indicate a problem.
22. Ensure that the work area is free of flammable vapours.
23. Never operate fuel powered compressors indoors.
24. Never point the nozzle or a spray attachment at another person.
25. Always check the pressure rating of tools to be used to ensure they are compatible with compressor settings.
26. Never exceed the maximum pressure rating of the tool to be used.

27. Do not use the compressor to inflate low pressure items.
28. Always follow the safety instructions for spray units or other attachments.
29. Always follow the safety instructions for any materials used in a sprayer.
30. Ensure that the compressor is located at least 20 feet away from any location where flammable products are being sprayed.
31. Do not allow the equipment to become overheated.
32. Always turn the compressor off before attempting to remove or attach an accessory to the nozzle.
33. Always ensure that electrically powered compressors are plugged into a properly protected electrical outlet.
34. Do not touch the compressor head during operation or until it has cooled off after operation.
35. Always unplug electrical compressors from their power source before performing maintenance or attempting to clean the equipment.
36. Always set any pressure relief valves at the manufacturers recommended level above operating pressure.
37. Locate any pressure relief valve blow down pipe so that it will not cause injuries or damage.
38. Follow all manufacturer recommendations regarding pressure relief valves.