

 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY <i>Inspiring Minds</i> Safe Work Instructions for Plasma Cutters	Policy Sponsor: Assistant Vice President Facilities Management	Approval Date: September 2010
	Responsible Unit: Trade Services	Revisions: August 2018

Hazards Identified:

Extreme heat, infrared rays, noise, flying objects / articles, electrical shock, bright light, ultra violet radiation, fumes, gases

Personal Protective Equipment Required:

Insulated safety boots, flame retardant clothing, safety headwear, pants without cuffs, hearing protection, insulated gauntlet safety gloves

Training Required:

Before using this type of equipment employees must be properly trained by a competent person in its proper use. The operator's manual must be understood and followed by the operator at all times and reviewed regularly.

Employees must be trained in the proper use of all required PPE before operating this equipment.

These safe work practices must be followed at all times when using this equipment.

1. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper use of this equipment.
2. If the equipment is hard wired or plugged into a wall outlet it must be set in the OFF position or unplugged and properly locked out as defined in the FM Lock Out Program before any attempt is made to repair, service, clean, change blades, adjust or perform any other activity where an employee may be injured by the equipment being energized.
3. Do not use this equipment for anything other than its intended / designed purpose.
4. Do not tamper with or attempt to modify this equipment in any way.

5. Do not use this equipment unless you have been properly trained.
6. Ensure that the eye protection in your face shield is the correct number shade protection.
7. Consult with your physician about working with or near plasma arc cutting operations if you have a hearing aid or pacemaker.
8. Always remove matches, lighters or other flammable items from your pockets before operating this equipment.
9. Do not perform plasma cutting operations near areas where degreasing, cleaning or spraying operations are taking place.
10. Ensure that your body and clothing are kept dry during operation of this equipment.
11. Do not stand in water or sit or touch wet surfaces while working with the plasma cutter.
12. Never touch the body of the plasma cutting torch, the item being cut or the water in the water table if one is being used.
13. Ensure that you are insulated from the item being cut and ground by using an insulating mat.
14. Take every precaution necessary to prevent making contact with the work or ground.
15. Always take extra precautions if it is absolutely necessary to work in a damp area.
16. Ensure that the work area is well-ventilated.
17. Use a CSA approved air supplied respirator if adequate ventilation can not be provided.
18. Do not pick up the work piece or the waste cut-off while you are cutting.
19. Always concentrate completely on what you are doing.
20. Do not move or adjust the work clamp during plasma cutting operations.
21. Always make sure that the work cable is clamped to a spot free of rust, dust, moisture or paint to ensure a good metal to metal contact with the work piece or the work table.

22. Never attach the work cable to the waste piece.
23. Ensure that you follow all applicable safety standards and instructions for set-up and use of this equipment.