PCI Plant Quality Talk
Quality Enhancement Committee

SERIES 4, ISSUE 6 – PROPER USE OF PNEUMATIC POWER TOOLS

Pneumatic tools are powerful and efficient, but unsafe use of them can cause serious injuries. Treat pneumatic tools with the respect given to any power source, and maintain awareness of stored energy. Air pressure can be as dangerous as electricity; respect it, control it at all times, and never bypass safety devices.

Safe habits prevent accidents.

General Safety

- Always inspect pneumatic tools, hoses, and fittings before use for wear, cracks, leaks, and moisture.
- Inspect air hoses for wear before use. Keep air hoses out of the paths of vehicles and areas with high foot traffic.
- Only trained personnel should operate pneumatic tools.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions and OSHA/ANSI standard 29 CFR 1926.302 (b), Pneumatic Power Tools.
- The tool operator and all persons in close vicinity to pneumatic tools in operation must use appropriate personal protective equipment.

Air Supply and Pressure

- Use a regulator to ensure the air pressure is at the manufacturer's recommended air pressure and never exceed the maximum pressure rating. A perceived lack of air pressure could be caused by an inadequate volume of air or a kinked hose. Ensure that all hoses and fittings are properly sized and are not kinked to provide the proper air volume, which is usually measured in cubic feet per minute.
- Install safety devices such as pressure relief valves.
- Bleed pressure from hoses before connecting, disconnecting, or servicing tools.

Hoses and Connections

- Use hoses and couplings rated for at least the maximum allowable pressure of the pneumatic tool.
- Secure hose connections with safety clips and restraints to prevent hose whipping.
- Route hoses to avoid trip hazards, sharp edges, pinch points, and hot surfaces.
- Never carry tools by the hose.

Tool Handling

- Use only accessories that are intended for pneumatic tools. **DO NOT** use chrome sockets on air wrenches or impact wrenches.
- Disconnect tools from the air supply when changing cutting accessories (for example, chisels, drill bits, blades) or when not in use.
- Keep hands clear of rotating, cutting, or impact points.
- Maintain a firm grip and stable stance during operation.
- Do not use compressed air to clean skin, clothing, or hair, and never direct air toward yourself or others.

Work Environment

- Ensure good lighting and clean, dry surfaces to prevent slips.
- Use proper ventilation where dust, fumes, or exhaust may be generated.
- Keep bystanders at a safe distance during operation.
- Secure tools with lanyards when working at heights.

Maintenance and Storage

- Perform regular maintenance (for example, lubrication, after-coolers, filter checks, O-ring replacement) per manufacturers' guidelines.
- Tag and remove defective tools from service immediately.
- Do not modify tools except as allowed by the manufacturer.
- To prevent damage, store hoses coiled and store tools in designated areas.

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Note: Please complete this form and return to the Quality Control Manager. All crew members should be observant and report to their supervisor anything out of the ordinary on a project. *See something, say something.*

NOTES	ATTENDEE SIGNATURES
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PRESENTER _____	_____
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