

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 001 – AIR COMPRESSOR

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Safe Work Procedure establishes minimum requirements for safe operation, inspection and shutdown of workshop air compressors at Illusions Australia.

It covers compressor operation and routine user checks. Servicing or repair beyond normal operator duties must be undertaken by an authorised competent person.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only workers instructed in the compressor controls and safe use may operate it.

Electrical, pressure-vessel or mechanical repairs must not be attempted by unauthorised workers.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Safety glasses or suitable eye protection.
- Hearing protection where noise levels require it.
- Safety footwear.
- Other PPE required for the task being supplied with compressed air.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- The compressor, receiver, hoses, fittings and electrical supply show no obvious damage.
- Guards and covers are fitted and secure.
- Pressure gauges and controls are serviceable and readable.
- Drain valves and fittings are closed and secure before start-up.
- Hoses are routed to avoid damage, trip hazards and vehicle traffic.
- The compressor has adequate ventilation and air intakes are unobstructed.
- The receiver and compressor are within required inspection/maintenance arrangements.
- No oil, air or condensate leaks are evident.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Position the compressor on a stable surface with adequate ventilation.
2. Connect only serviceable hoses and fittings rated for the system pressure.
3. Ensure downstream equipment is suitable for the available pressure.
4. Start the compressor using the normal controls and allow pressure to build normally.
5. Monitor gauges, noise, vibration and temperature for abnormal conditions.
6. Use regulators where lower working pressure is required.

7. Keep hoses controlled and protected while work is underway.
8. When finished, switch off the compressor and relieve downstream pressure before disconnecting hoses.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Operate a compressor with damaged guards, hoses, fittings or electrical components.
- Exceed the rated working pressure of the compressor, receiver, hose or connected equipment.
- Modify, defeat or interfere with pressure relief valves or safety controls.
- Use compressed air to clean clothing or direct air at any person.
- Leave significant air leaks unrectified.
- Undertake repairs while the receiver or connected system remains pressurised.

7. PRESSURE AND RECEIVER SAFETY

Compressed air stores significant energy. Pressure must be released before opening, disconnecting or servicing any part of the system.

- Never tamper with the safety relief valve.
- Do not strike, drill, weld or modify the air receiver.
- Remove a damaged or suspect receiver from service.

8. CONDENSATE AND VENTILATION

Drain condensate in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and workplace arrangements. Ensure discharged condensate is controlled and disposed of appropriately.

- Keep cooling vents and air intakes clear.
- Do not operate in an enclosed location where heat cannot dissipate.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL OPERATION

Stop the compressor immediately if there is excessive vibration, unusual noise, overheating, smoke, electrical smell, pressure-control failure or a significant leak.

Isolate and tag defective equipment out of service. Do not restart until assessed and rectified.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Switch off the compressor.
- Allow the unit to stop normally.
- Isolate the electrical supply where required.
- Relieve downstream pressure before disconnecting hoses or tools.
- Coil and store hoses to prevent damage and trip hazards.
- Report leaks, damage or abnormal operation.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate energy sources where safe to do so.

3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- A pressure relief or control device is defective.
- The receiver, hose or fitting is damaged or leaking significantly.
- Guards are missing or damaged.
- The compressor overheats or operates abnormally.
- The operator is uncertain that the equipment is safe to use.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe air compressor work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	SWP 001 – Air Compressor
Document Type	Safe Work Procedure
Prepared By	Aidan McDonnell
Approved By	Managing Director
Status	Controlled Document