

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 012 – COMPRESSED AIR - SAFE USE

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for safe use of compressed air throughout Illusions Australia.

Applies to compressed-air hoses, nozzles, blow guns and general compressed-air applications; machine-specific pneumatic-tool SWPs also apply.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Workers must understand stored-energy, injection, projectile, noise and hose-whip hazards.

Only approved fittings, regulators, hoses and nozzles may be used.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Eye protection.
- Hearing protection where required.
- Safety footwear.
- Task-specific respiratory protection where airborne contaminants may be generated.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Hose and fittings are rated, compatible and undamaged.
- Connections are secure before pressurising.
- Pressure is regulated to the minimum suitable level.
- Hoses do not create trip or vehicle hazards.
- Nozzle is suitable for the task.
- The task will not create hazardous airborne dust or propel debris toward others.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Inspect hose and fittings.
2. Connect with supply isolated/depressurised where practicable.
3. Pressurise gradually and check for leaks.
4. Control the hose and direct the nozzle only at the intended work area.
5. Use the lowest effective pressure.
6. Keep other persons clear of the discharge zone.
7. Shut off supply and release residual pressure before disconnecting.
8. Coil and store hoses after use.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Direct compressed air at skin, eyes, ears or any person.
- Use compressed air to clean clothing or the body.
- Use damaged hoses or makeshift couplings.
- Disconnect a pressurised hose.
- Use compressed air to disperse hazardous dust.
- Kink hoses as a substitute for proper isolation.
- Exceed component pressure ratings.

7. INJECTION AND EYE INJURY

Compressed air can penetrate skin and propel particles into eyes.

- Never test leaks with hands or skin.
- Wear eye protection.
- Treat suspected air injection injury as an emergency.

8. HOSE WHIP

A failed or disconnected pressurised hose can move violently.

- Use secure compatible couplings.
- Control hose routing.
- Depressurise before disconnection.
- Use restraints where required.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL OPERATION

Stop for leaks, damaged hose, insecure coupling, regulator failure or uncontrolled hose movement.

Isolate supply and remove defective components from service.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Shut off supply.
- Release residual pressure.
- Disconnect safely.
- Coil hoses without kinks.
- Store fittings/nozzles and report defects.

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:

- Hose/fittings are damaged.
- Pressure cannot be regulated.
- People cannot be kept clear.
- The task would create uncontrolled dust/projectiles.
- A leak or coupling fault develops.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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