



Powder- Actuated Tools

Explain Dangers

Powder-actuated tools use an explosive cartridge or gas discharge to fire a fastener into hard materials such as concrete, mild steel, and masonry. Used improperly, these tools can pose obvious hazards. Reading and following these important guidelines and regulations will help you perform these fastening operations safely and effectively.



Regualtions

- Powder actuated tools must meet the requirements of ANSI Standard A10.3 - Safety Requirements for Powder-Actuated Fastening Systems or CSA Standards for Powder Actuated Devices.
- All tools must be marked with the manufacturer's name or trademark, model number and serial number.
- Any worker using a powder-actuated tool must be trained in the use of the specific make and model of tool and have a valid operator's certificate issued by the manufacturer or another qualified instruction agency.
- All operators must be able to demonstrate that they can use the tool effectively and safely and are wearing all required PPE.
- When not in use, it must be unloaded and the tool and powder loads must be securely stored and be accessible only to qualified and authorized persons.
- It must never be pointed at a person.

- All operators must have immediately available a copy of the manufacturer's operating instructions for the specific tool being used; a copy of the powder load and fastener charts for the tool; and accessories or tools needed for use or field servicing of the tool, including personal protective equipment.
- It cannot be used in areas where flammable or combustible atmospheres may be present.
- Before use, the operator must check to ensure that it is in good working order. This means inspection and function testing.
- It must require two separate actions before it will fire: Pressure against the surface of the material; action of the trigger.
- It must be stored in a locked container when not in use or when left unattended.
- It must not be loaded until ready for immediate use.

General Guidelines for Use

- Always keep your hands and fingers off the trigger when you are not using the gun. Never carry the gun with your finger on the trigger.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.
- Ensure that all persons within the immediate area of the firing activities wear suitable eye and hearing protection.
- Do not drive fasteners into brittle materials that can shatter or material that are too hard (marble, glazed tiles, slate, natural stones, bricks, iron).
- ★ Note: The Newfoundland and Labrador Health and Safety Regulations 2012, Section 105-107, contains additional requirements for Powder Actuated tools.

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