

Guidance

G1922

Angle grinder safety precautions

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for users portable angle grinders. These are very hazardous by nature, and have the potential to cause harm not only to those people but to others in the vicinity.

2 Scope

This Guidance applies to the use of angle grinders by Pumps' Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) and also Lifts & Escalators DLO personnel.

3 Guidance

Angle grinders are one of the most potentially dangerous tools on any work site. The majority of injuries associated with angle grinder use are foreign bodies to the eyes and lacerations to the body. These injuries typically result from the wrong use or operation of the grinder, failure to wear the correct personal protective equipment, improper abrasive wheel selection or improperly inspected and maintained equipment. There is also a potential for fire caused by sparks from the grinding process, screens should be used where necessary.

4 General Safety Precautions

4.1 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Use appropriate personal protective equipment when grinding. As minimum the operation of a portable grinder requires goggles or face shield with safety glasses, hearing protection, leather gloves and steel toed leather boots or shoes. Work conducted in close or confined spaces will require additional personal protective equipment.

4.2 Visual Inspection

Inspect the grinder for damage, guard placement and abrasive wheel compatibility. The grinder should be free of physical damage on the body of the tool, the power supply cord or hose, and the abrasive wheel. The abrasive wheel should be designed for the grinding application, rated for the grinder speed (RPM), and properly mounted. The guard should adequately cover the circumference of the abrasive wheel.

4.3 Battery Care

4.3.1 Battery performance drops at low temperatures. Use the tool only after fully charging the battery. This ensures that maximum battery capacity is available. Change to a second battery as soon as a drop in performance is noticed. Recharge the battery immediately so that it is ready for reuse.

4.1.2 Store the battery in a cool, dry place. Never store the battery where it is exposed to direct sunlight or sources of heat, e.g. on heaters / radiators or behind a motor vehicle windscreen. Batteries that have reached the end of their life must be disposed of safely and correctly to avoid environmental pollution.

CAUTION: When the machine is not in use, the power source should be disconnected

5 Angle grinder safety

5.1 General

- Consider work area environment.
 - Keep work area clean, uncluttered and well lighted.
 - Keep visitors out of work area.
 - Keep floors dry and free of slippery materials.
 - Clear machine and bench of all objects such as wrenches or tools before turning machine on.
- Don't expose power tools to rain.
- Don't use power tools in damp or wet locations.
- Don't use tool in presence of flammable liquids or gases
- Power tools produce sparks during operation and also spark when switching ON/OFF Never use power tools in dangerous sites containing lacquer, paint, benzene, thinner, gasoline, gases, adhesive agents, and other materials which are combustible or explosive. Use screens where necessary.
- Guard against electric shock; prevent body contact with grounded surfaces, For example; pipes, radiators, ranges, etc.
- Make certain the machine is stored correctly during transportation and in dry conditions at all times.
- Check the condition of the grinding wheel before use.

5.2 Electrical safety

- Do not expose power tools to rain or wet conditions. Water entering a power tool will increase the risk of electric shock.
- Do not abuse the cord. Never use the cord for carrying, pulling or unplugging the power tool. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.
- If operating a power tool in a damp location is unavoidable, use a Residual Current Device (RCD) protected supply.

NOTE: Use of an RCD reduces the risk of electric shock.

5.3 Personal safety

Use personal protective equipment. Always wear eye protection. Protective equipment such as dust mask, non-skid safety shoes, hard hat, or hearing protection used for appropriate conditions will reduce personal injuries.

WARNING: Read all safety warnings and all instructions. Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury. Save all warnings and instructions for future reference. The term "power tool" in the warnings refers to your mains-operated (corded) power tool or battery-operated (cordless) power tool.

5.4.1 Ensure correct PPE is available and used for the tasks involved.

5.4.2 Ensure all involved in the task know and understand their role.

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