



## AIRDRAULIC BIRCO GROUP PTY LTD

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ACN 002 890 477

ABN 47 002 890 477

# Pneumatic Tools Safety Information

## Safety Precautions:

**Wear approved protective gear** such as hard hats, safety boots, hearing & eye protection at all times. **Do Not Alter or Remove Any Safety Features.**

**Read and understand** the safety labels that are bonded to the air tool. Do not attempt to remove these safety labels, they are there for your protection and safety.

**Check** that the air throttle is operating correctly and that the chisel retainers are not worn out. Faulty or badly worn chuck bushings and pistons are a primary cause of excessive shank wear and destruction of the striking end of the tool

**Misuse is dangerous.** Tools and their accessories should be only used for those purposes they were designed for. If there are any questions regarding the proper usage, please contact your nearest Airdraulic Birco Group office

**Start your work with reduced air pressure** and avoid burying the tool. Tools that are run without the tool bit against the work piece are subject to a building up of stresses and may damage the tool. Always use a firm and steady pressure when running an air tool. Using any air tool as a lever or prying instrument is dangerous and will cause tool damage

## SAFETY INFORMATION

Prior to using any pneumatic tool, the operator must read and understand the operating and safety instructions provided with each tool.

### Eye, Face and Body Protection

**Eye protection** must be worn at all times when using any air tool. Any debris, large or small can become a dangerous projectile. All visitors or other personnel in the immediate area where an air tool is in operation must also wear eye and hearing protection. Eye protectors must meet the following requirements:

- Provide adequate protection against hazards for which they are designed
- Be reasonably comfortable when worn under the designated conditions
- Fit snugly without interfering with the movements or vision of the wearer.
- Be durable.
- Be kept in good, clean working condition

**Impact resistant face protection** should be used in situations where there is exposure to tool operation or when deemed necessary. Impact resistant face protection should be worn over the eye protection and is not intended to take the place of eye protection.

**Safety boots or steel toe shoes** must be worn at all times by anyone operating pneumatic tools and by anyone in the immediate area.

**Safety hard hats** must be worn at all times by anyone operating air tools, particularly when performing overhead work or by anyone in the immediate area.

**Loose fitting clothing or jewellery** of any type must not be worn when operating air tools.

### DISTRIBUTORS OF:

\*Edco Surface Preparation Tools \*Macdonald Air Tools \*Timberking Chainsaws \*Rock Drills \*Drilling Equipment \*Picket Post Driver \*Compressors  
\*Air Hose & Fittings \*ASL Lubricators \*Electric & Pneumatic Points & Chisels \*Pedestal & Wall Fans \*Mancoolers & Tube Fans \*VAF Fans \*Venturi Air Movers  
\*Gas Heaters \*SPP Pumps \*Submersible Pumps \*Transfer Pumps \*Puddle Pumps \*Layflat hose and fittings \*Bauers & Camlocks \*Blast Hole Plugs  
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## Safety Information Continued

### Tool Maintenance and Operation

All tools must be inspected to make sure they are working correctly prior to operation. All components must be checked to make sure they are tight and there are no missing or damaged parts. **Do Not** turn the tool towards your body or towards anyone else. **Always** work with the tool firmly pointed to the workface. Operation of the tool without the impact being applied to the workface may result in injury and will also damage the tool. **Never** adjust, remove, repair or store pneumatic tools with disconnecting the air supply and relieving the hose air pressure. Never change tool steels or any accessories without disconnecting the air supply first. **Never** leave an idle tool connected to an air supply to prevent accidental actuation. The air supply must be turned off at the source or at the air compressor. Keep all spectators away from the work area. If there must be spectators, they must be kept at a safe distance from the workplace where the pneumatic tools are being operated. **Always** inspect the tool steel carefully for cracks or damage. **Never** operate pneumatic equipment with damaged tool steels. Be sure that the steel is properly sharpened. Consult your tool steel catalogue for the proper selection of tool steel for the application. **Do Not** touch tool steel or other air hammer accessories while the tool is working. Wear gloves and make sure rubber handles are in good condition if the tools are fitted with them. **Never** attempt to use a pneumatic tool without a steel retainer. **Always** inspect retainers for damage or excessive wear and do not use damaged or worn retainers. Check all bolts for proper torques. **Always** inspect all air hoses for cracks, worn threads, damaged or loose quick connect couplings in order to prevent injury resulting from a whipping air hose. Look out for excess air hose around the work area to prevent tripping and falling. Ensure proper footing and balance when operating any air tool.

### Vibration

The nature of the work with pneumatic tools can be uncomfortable to the operator. Prolonged use of pneumatic tools may be harmful to your hands and arms. You can minimize the vibration by using proper operator techniques, correct air pressure (90 psi), sharp steels and anti vibration tools. Airdraulic Birco Group offers a range of ergonomic air hammers designed specifically to reduce harmful vibration to the operator without reducing the power of the tool.

### Noise

Prolonged exposure to noise caused by normal operation of pneumatic equipment may lead to hearing disorders. OSHA regulates the maximum sound level to which an operator may be exposed. Hearing protection should be used by anyone operating equipment and anyone being exposed to noise caused by pneumatic equipment. Airdraulic Birco Group recommends the use of muffler/silencers designed to reduce the noise level of pneumatic tools.

Please take time to ensure your safety and that of others. It is impossible to cover in these instructions all the possible dangers of operating pneumatic tools. **Always** use common sense and good judgement. If you have any doubts concerning safe operation of our tools, please call your nearest Airdraulic Birco Group office for advice. Please make sure all operators read and understand the safety label bonded to every tool, as well as the safety information supplied with the new tool. Should you require additional copies please contact your nearest Airdraulic Birco Group office.

All air tool operators should be properly trained in the safe and efficient use of pneumatic equipment. Any defective or malfunctioning tool should be immediately disconnected from its air supply and returned to your nearest Airdraulic Birco Group office for repair.

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# Operating Instructions For Air Tools

## Air Pressure

The recommended air requirement for the operation of air tools is 90 psi (6.2 bar). Lower air pressure will decrease power, too high a pressure will increase unwanted stresses in the tool.

## Hose Size

Airdraulic Birco Group recommends the use of at least 1/2" inside diameter or larger hoses to assure sufficient air flow to the tool. For portable compressor hose and longer lengths, 3/4" hose is recommended. Keep the overall length of the hose to a minimum to prevent pressure loss at the tool.

## Connecting Hoses

Hoses should be rated for a minimum working pressure of 250 psi (17.2 bar). Before connecting the air hose to the tool, check the tool inlet connector to be sure it is clear and free of dirt or debris. Keeping dirt or debris from entering the tool will assure long and satisfactory operation.

## Tool Operation

Check the tool and any accessories for damage or loose parts. Make sure all safety devices are fitted correctly and are in good condition. Install the proper accessory steel into the tool. Place the tool steel onto the work surface and hold the tool firmly. Feet should be placed squarely on the ground to maintain balance. Actuate the throttle lever or trigger to operate the tool. Never operate an air tool without the correct size accessory steel properly installed. Keep the accessory steel firmly in contact with the work surface. Do not leave a tool lying idle with the air supply connected. Never point a tool toward anyone or any surrounding objects. To stop operation, release the throttle lever or trigger.

## Lubrication Of Pneumatic Tools

Oil is the essential element necessary to guarantee maximum tool life and performance. The most significant factor contributing to failure or premature wear of any tool is the lack of lubrication or the use of an improper lubricant. Lack of lubrication will result in overheating of the piston, tappet, rifle bar, etc. Repeated overheating will quickly cause piston failure by either breaking the piston or damaging the cylinder bore. Airdraulic Birco Group recommends using a light oil to lubricate its percussion type tools such as chipping hammers, rivet busters, demolition hammers and paving breakers as well as the 4kg rock drill. This light weight oil should be air tool oil, 10W motor oil, or an equivalent grade ATF fluid. Air tool oil contains rust and oxidation inhibitors which help reduce the negative affects of moisture penetrating the tool by way of the air supply.

Airdraulic Birco Group recommends using a lubricant especially formulated for use in the heavier rock drills. Rock Drill oil is high viscosity oil, with additives designed to cope with the extreme conditions such as heat, velocity and pressures associated with air tool operation.

Some of the tools supplied by Airdraulic Birco Group will have an in-built automatic oil reservoir. The built in oilers have a capacity of about 50ml which provide between 2 to 4 hours of lubrication. The operator must make sure that the oil reservoir is refilled. To be safe this should be done every 2 hours of operating time. It is recommended that an in-line oiler of sufficient capacity to guarantee 8 hours or more of lubrication supply to the tool. The capacity of these in-line oilers range from 115ml to 1.5ltrs. Oilers come equipped with a metering screw inside the reservoir which allows the operator to adjust the oil flow from light to heavy mists of oil. To install an in-line oiler, use a whip hose to place the oiler approximately 2mtrs away from the tool. Attach the oiler end to the air supply hose and attach the other end of the whip hose directly to the tool. To check that the oiler is installed properly check the oil flow indicator on the side of the oiler.

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# Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome



- **Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS)** is a widespread industrial disease affecting tens of thousands of workers. Its best-known effect is vibration-induced white finger (VWF). VWF is also known as “dead finger” or “dead hand” and will often affect the people who regularly use high vibration equipment such as hand tools.
- **Attacks** are painful and can result in the loss of ability to grip properly (severe cases can lead to gangrene). It results in damage to the blood vessels, reducing the blood supply damage to nerves, causing a permanent loss of feeling damage to bones and muscles, similar to arthritis
- **Symptoms:** The fingers turn white during an attack, but it is the loss of manual dexterity and grip strength which are the most debilitating symptom, together with aching digits and limbs, chilblains and numbness with loss of sensation. They can last up to half an hour and can often be set off by cold. It is very painful, especially as the blood returns to the fingers and the colour turns red
- **Vibrating tools** or processes which causes tingling or numbness after 5 to 10 minutes of continuous use is suspect. The degree of risk will depend on many factors. The amount of vibration, how long the tools are used for, the working posture and how cold it is will all make a difference.
- **Where** people regularly use such equipment for prolonged periods there is likely to be a risk of injury

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## Risk Assessments

As with any assessment the first step is to identify any hazards that could present a significant risk of injury. Look for any warning signs. For example:

- Actual cases of VWF in the workplace.
- Complaints by workers, such as pain in the hand, difficulty in sustaining a strong grip on hand tools.
- Have employees been asked if they have any of these conditions?

Consider the extent of use of vibrating hand tools:

- How often are the tools used?
- How long are they used for?
- Under what physical conditions are they used?
- Are the tools designed with anti-vibration measures in mind?

## The Solution

- **Include** Hand-Arm Vibration in your Health and Safety policy:
  - Train operatives
  - Monitor and limit exposure
  - Select low vibration equipment
- **Check** that the vibration levels and usage times quoted by the manufacturer are accurate and represent real life working conditions.
- **Ensure** the machine's productivity (output) is high. Inefficient equipment, even with low vibration, can expose operators to harmful levels because they have to use it for longer to finish the job.
- **Choose** tools that are easy and comfortable for operators to use. Less effort equals less vibration.

## Remedial Action

- There are a number of ways in which the VWF risks can be reduced. Consider what measures might be reasonably practicable to take:
- Maintaining tools thoroughly and regularly may reduce vibration through proper balancing.
- Attention should be paid to the sharpening of tools, grinding wheels should be dressed and anti-vibration mounts checked.
- Some tools might be modified by adding anti-vibration handles or plastic vibration reducing materials on the handles.

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### Remedial Action (cont)

- The number of tasks where vibrating tools need to be used could be reduced. Improving quality standards and eliminating the need for excess material to be removed by grinding etc.
- Reducing exposure times by job sharing or job rotation.
- Using gloves to keep the hands warm and hence lessen the chance of VWF occurring.
- Providing health surveillance for those carrying out tasks where there is a significant risk of VWF. Some employees may have medical conditions which may produce the changes of VWF and are advised not to work with vibrating tools.
- The techniques used to work with the tools can also affect the risks. Training in good techniques can therefore reduce the risks along with making sure that the early symptoms of VWF are recognised and acted upon.

### Purchasing New Tools and Equipment

- Even if the assessment does not justify the immediate replacement of older tools and equipment, a positive purchasing policy should be considered for the long term improvement of the risk.
- When considering the purchase of new tools or equipment, you should seek information from the supplier about the vibration levels that their products are likely to create and ways in which the problems can be overcome.
- Lighter, higher speed tools tend to reduce the low frequency vibration which is more harmful and more difficult to eliminate.
- Pay particular attention to grinders as the imbalance of the wheel and the cutting disc are the main causes of vibration in such equipment.

### Key Action Steps

- Learn to recognise the early symptoms of VWF: any vibrating tool which causes numbness or tingling after 5/10 minutes.
- When conducting risk assessments bear in mind the hazards of VWF.
- Consider measures required to reduce the risks from VWF.
- Draw up an action plan to implement these control measures.

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## PNEUMATIC TOOL SAFETY GUIDE

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### Safety Instructions

- Keep work area well lit, clean and free from rubbish.
- Inspect the area you are about to work in. Look carefully for any pipes, electrical cables, metal objects, etc. that will have to be removed or avoided.
- Allow no visitors to your immediate work area and insure tools are locked away after use.
- Be alert at all times and watch what you are doing, do not operate if you are tired or incapacitated.
- Do not overreach, keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- Operator must be physically able to handle the bulk, weight and power of the tool.
- Do not use any tools near flammables or explosive materials.
- Keep guards in place and in working order.
- Do not touch movable parts or accessories unless the air supply has been disconnected. Check that keys have been removed from the tool before recommencing work.
- Fit hoses, tools and accessories and close valves before starting compressor.
- Never exceed the maximum air pressure recommended for the machine or tool.
- Do not use damaged, frayed or deteriorated hoses and fittings. Always store hoses properly after use away from heat sources or sunlight. A hose failure can cause injury.
- Whenever universal twist couplings are used, lock pins must be installed.
- When blowing out a hose or air line, ensure the open end is held securely, a free end will whip and can cause injury. Open the supply air cock carefully and ensure that any particles are ejected safely. A blocked air hose can become a compressed air gun.
- Close the air cock at the compressor or the supply line and release the line pressure before disconnecting the hose. The air cock should be within easy reach of the work area.
- Do not direct air to yourself or anyone else.
- Use clamps or a vice to hold work when practical and never stand on a tool, serious injury can occur.
- Do not lock the switch in the on position with wire, tape or any other means.
- Do not force a tool or attempt to do a job with it that it was not designed to do.
- Do not touch the work surface or tool bit immediately after use, they may be hot.
- Do not leave the tool running while unattended.
- All tools should be maintained and cleaned for best and safest performance. Use recommended accessories only.
- If you damage the tool do not attempt to use it again. Take tool to qualified experienced personnel for safety inspection.

### Operating Instructions

- Insert the appropriate accessory and lock it in.
- Ensure that the tool is in the desired, comfortable working position and nothing can come in contact with any moving part of the tool during operation.
- Always turn off compressor air supply and release the air pressure in the hose before changing the inserted tool or before disconnecting the hose.
- Use an air line lubricator or add a small amount of oil to the air inlet once a day.
- Hold the tool bit against the work surface before operating the switch.
- Plan your method of use of the tool to minimise time and give maximum effectiveness.



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# PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT BEFORE OPERATING ANY PNEUMATIC TOOL SUPPLIED BY ABG:

## RISK ASSESSMENT PNEUMATIC TOOL

### General

- Never exceed the maximum air pressure recommended for the machine, usually this is 7.5bar (110psi) for hand held machines.
- Do not use damaged, frayed or deteriorated hoses and fittings. Always store hoses properly after use away from heat sources or sunlight. A hose failure can cause injury.
- When blowing out the air hose hold the open end securely, a free end will whip and can cause injury. Open the air supply carefully and ensure any particles are ejected safely. A blocked air hose can become a compressed air gun.
- Close the air valve at the compressor or supply line and release the air pressure before disconnecting the hose. The air valve should always be within easy reach of the work area.
- The operator and other personal must wear personal protection such as safety glasses, gloves and safety footwear. Ear protection should also be worn.
- Depending on the material being worked on, precautions may be required against the generated dust.

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## Use of the machine

- Use only approved inserted tools
- Worn inserted tools can promote breakage, reduce work rate and increase vibration. An inserted tool that breaks can cause injury.
- Do not use frozen tools. In freezing conditions store tools undercover, preferably in a warm building. Freezing conditions can make hardened steels brittle and cause breakage.
- A proper working condition should be adopted to ensure stability in the event of a breakage of an inserted tool.
- Always turn off compressed air and release air pressure in the hose before changing the inserted tool or before disconnecting the hose.
- Always present the tool as squarely as possible to the working surface to minimize the effects of side loading on the inserted tool.
- Do not use in circumstances where the tool may strike a live but possibly concealed electric cable.
- If the compressed air supply stops during operation of the machine the throttle lever should be released immediately.
- Never hold onto the inserted tool, use the bottom sleeve or silencer.

## Warning

***Never attempt to change a chisel,moil, and asphalt cutter or other accessory on a pneumatic tool unless the tool has been completely disconnected from the air supply.  
The cylinder of this tool is hardened and should not be welded under any circumstances. Welding can cause local softening.***

For further information please contact Airdraulic Birco Group on the following numbers:

<b><u>SYDNEY:</u></b>	02 9882 3444	<b><u>PERTH:</u></b>	08 9258 4144
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