

Risk Assessment

RA013 – Use of Cartridge Operated Tools



ABI Equipment Ltd	Creation Date: 28/09/2012
Use of Cartridge Operated Tools	

Main Hazards are:	
Free firing - firing a fixing directly through the air.	Initiating a fire or explosion in a flammable atmosphere.
Material penetration - a fixing going right through the material being fired into.	Noise in certain circumstances, e.g. confined spaces.
Material edge failure - failure of the material to contain the fixing.	Recoil - falls from the sudden forces generated.
Ricochet - the fixing being deflected away from the material being fired into.	Damage to services, e.g. electrical wiring, resulting in exposure to services hazards.
Spalling - pieces of material separating and flying off at high velocity.	
Persons / Property affected	
All Employees	General Public

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	3	X	Likelihood	3	= Risk	9
----------------------------	----------	---	---	------------	---	--------	---

Control Measures already in Place	PPE Required
1. Managers should be aware both risks and rules for safe use.	Safety helmets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. A manager should be made responsible for the issue and return of COTs including unused cartridges.	Hi-Vis Jackets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Only properly trained and experienced operators over the age of 18 should use COTs.	Safety footwear <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. COTs and cartridges should be stored properly and securely.	Eye protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Whilst in use COTs should not be left available to be taken and used by unauthorised persons.	Dust masks <input type="checkbox"/>
6. COTs and cartridges should conform to appropriate standards and be properly maintained.	Ear plugs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn.	Earmuffs <input type="checkbox"/>
8. The area of work should be cleared and shields erected against possible splintering.	Gloves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. COTs must not be used in a flammable atmosphere.	Protective overalls <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gauntlets <input type="checkbox"/>
	Harnesses <input type="checkbox"/>
	Breathing apparatus <input type="checkbox"/>
	Face masks <input type="checkbox"/>

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	3	X	Likelihood	3	= Risk	9
----------------------------	----------	---	---	------------	---	--------	---

Additional Controls required	PPE/Equipment
All personnel involved in the work should be trained to perform their duties with due regard to the health and safety of themselves and anyone else who could be affected.	All personnel MUST wear the appropriate level of PPE for the activity they are involved with or area they are in.
The employee must be adequately trained and competent to operate the tools/equipment they are to use.	
Newly trained staff should be supervised until a suitable level of competency has been achieved.	

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	3	X	Likelihood	1	= Risk	3
----------------------------	----------	---	---	------------	---	--------	---

Risk Assessment

RA013 – Use of Cartridge Operated Tools



Approval and Review		
Prepared by:	Cathy Sheehan	28/09/2012
Updated by	Ash Soliman	16/09/2024
Review by:	Ash Soliman	16/09/2024

RISK RATING = L x S			Hazard Severity (S)				
			1	2	3	4	5
			Negligible	Slight	Moderate	High	Very High
Likelihood (L)	1	Very Unlikely	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
	2	Unlikely	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	3	Possible	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
	4	Likely	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	5	Very Likely	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH

Likelihood	
1. Very Unlikely	A freak combination of factors would be required for an accident/incident to occur
2. Unlikely	A rare combination of factors would be required for an accident/incident to occur
3. Possible	Could happen when accidental factors are present but otherwise unlikely
4. Likely	Not certain to happen but an additional factor may result in an accident/incident
5. Very Likely	Almost inevitable that an accident/incident would occur
Hazard Severity	
1. Negligible	Negligible injury, no absence from work
2. Slight	Minor injury requiring first aid
3. Moderate	Injury leading to a lost time accident
4. High	Involving a single person with a serious injury / death
5. Very High	Multiple persons with serious injury / death
Outcomes	
LOW	Score (1-6) May be acceptable. Annual Review to see if risks can be reduced further
MEDIUM	Score (8-10) Identify controls must be identified or specific method statement required
HIGH	Score (12-25) Task must not proceed. Senior Management to consider if the risks can be reduced by purchase of additional training, additional equipment, additional staff, additional signage, safe system of work, permit to work or radical changes in method.

Version Number	RA013-0924-3.0
Document location	M:\Health & Safety\Risk Assessments
Prepared by	Cathy Sheehan
Reviewed by	Ash Soliman
Next review Date	September 2028