

THE INSPECTION AND USE OF TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Conduct a Job Safety Briefing Before Beginning Any Task, Even if it Means Talking to Yourself

Inspect all tools and equipment before using

- Are you qualified to use or inspect the tool or equipment?
- Does it have a warning tag?
- Report any defects; do not use until repaired.
- Inspect as often as necessary during use.

Examples:

- Tools with wooden handles should not be used if the handles are splintered or cracked.
- Impact tools such as hammers, and chisels should be inspected for mushroomed heads that can shatter or emit potentially harmful metal fragments upon impact.
- Users of machine and power tools should ensure that guards are installed, maintained as per manufacturers standards and operated to protect against unauthorized adjustment, circumvention and hazards between the guard and the moving machine or tooling parts.
- Compressed air hoses used for pneumatic tools should be inspected to ensure that they are rated to handle the pressures needed to properly use the tool.
- All extension cords should be inspected to ensure they have three prongs, if the grounding prong is bent or missing, the cord must be replaced.
- Ropes, chains and slings should be regularly inspected and must not be used without having permanently affixed and legible identification markings as prescribed by the manufacturer that indicate the recommended safe working load for the type.

Using tools

- Use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – many tools have specific PPE requirements; refer to Safety Rules and manufacturer's instructions
- Use the proper tool for the task.
- Use tools or equipment only in the manner for which they were designed.
- Tag defective or otherwise unusable tools.
- Do not make any unauthorized modifications to tools or equipment.

