

# **Workplace Safety and Health (Explosive Powered Tools) Regulations 2009**

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### **No. S 325**

#### **WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT (CHAPTER 354A)**

#### **WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH (EXPLOSIVE POWERED TOOLS) REGULATIONS 2009**

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 65 of the Workplace Safety and Health Act, the Minister for Manpower hereby makes the following Regulations:

#### **PART I**

#### **PRELIMINARY**

#### **Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Workplace Safety and Health (Explosive Powered Tools) Regulations 2009 and shall come into operation on 1st September 2009.

#### **Definitions**

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“authorised person” means —

- (a) a manufacturer of tools, projectiles or charges for use in a tool; or
- (b) any person authorised by the manufacturer of a tool to repair the tool;

“charge” means an explosive charge;

“defect” means any defect that may impair or affect the safe and normal operation of a tool;

“direct acting tool” means a tool in which the driving force on the projectile comes

directly from compressed gases from a charge;

“indirect acting tool” means a tool in which the driving force from a charge is transmitted indirectly onto the projectile via a piston;

“operator” means a person who uses a tool and who has successfully completed a training course acceptable to the Commissioner on the operation of that tool;

“projectile” means any stud, pin, dowel, screw, rivet, spike, nail or other object driven against, into or through any substance by means of a tool;

“recognised testing body” means a testing body acceptable to the Commissioner;

“repair” includes any act or attempt to improve, modify, alter or adjust any tool;

“tool” means any explosive powered tool from which a projectile may be driven against, into or through any substance by means of a charge, and includes every attachment or accessory used, adapted or intended to be used with the device, but does not include a firearm within the meaning of the Arms and Explosives Act (Cap. 13) or a side wall coring gun used in exploratory bore hole work;

“use”, in relation to a tool, means to load, unload or discharge the tool, or to attempt to load, unload or discharge the tool.

### **Application**

3. These Regulations shall apply in relation to every workplace in which an explosive powered tool is used.

## **PART II**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **General duty on employer or principal**

4. It shall be the duty of —

(a) the employer of a person who uses a tool; or

(b) the principal under whose direction a person uses a tool,

to ensure that the requirements of regulations 5 to 9 are complied with in relation to the tool and any projectile or charge to be used in or with the tool.

#### **Protective shield or device**

5. Where a tool is a direct acting tool, it shall have a protective shield or device attached to its muzzle end in such a manner —

- (a) as to effectively arrest the escape of any stray projectile and any other object or particle liberated by the discharge of the tool; and
- (b) that the outer edge of the shield or device is not at any point closer to the centre of the muzzle end of the barrel than a distance of 50 millimetres, except where the tool is used in the circumstances described in regulation 23.

### **General requirements for tools**

6. No tool shall be used unless —

- (a) it is of good construction, sound material and adequate strength, is free from patent defects and is in accordance with a standard or specification acceptable to the Commissioner;
- (b) a projectile cannot be discharged from it if it is dropped onto a surface from a height of 3 metres or more;
- (c) it cannot be discharged accidentally while being handled; and
- (d) where it is a direct acting tool, it can only be discharged —
  - (i) if a force of 110 newtons or more is applied by its operator to the springs of the breech and firing mechanisms; and
  - (ii) if the axis of its barrel or barrel extension does not deviate by more than 7 degrees from a right angle formed by the barrel and the surface into which a projectile is to be fired from it.

### **Projectiles to meet requirements**

7. No projectile shall be used in a tool unless —

- (a) in the case of a smooth shanked projectile, the projectile can be bent through an angle of 40 degrees;
- (b) in the case of a knurled shanked projectile, the projectile can be bent through an angle of 30 degrees; and
- (c) the projectile, in a bend test for ductility, is able to bend about a pin with a diameter equal to the diameter of the shank of the projectile.

### **Projectiles and charges to be compatible with tools**