



**Labour and Workforce Development**

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DIVISION**

**Tools**

**A guide to Part 9 of the**

**Occupational Safety General Regulations**

*October 2007*

## A GUIDE TO PART 9 – TOOLS - of the OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY GENERAL REGULATIONS

The information contained in this publication is a guide only and should be read with the *Occupational Safety General Regulations* for specific requirements. The Regulations are available through our web site at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/healthandsafety/pubs.asp> or copies may be requested by calling the Information Specialist at 902-424-5400 or toll-free 1-800-952-2687. For your reference and convenience the section of the Regulation has been included where possible

## **Part 9-Tools**

### **General provisions (sections 104-108)**

#### **What is a tool?**

A tool is any device held in the operator's hand.

#### **What is a trained or skilled person?**

A trained or skilled person is someone has the knowledge, training and experience to do the assigned work safely.

#### **What requirements must be followed when using a tool or its accessories?**

When using a tool or its accessories, you should:

- be sure you have the knowledge, training and experience to use the tool safely
- Inspect the tool or accessory first
- Use it only for the intended purpose
- where necessary, make sure the tool is equipped with a secure hand grip
- follow the manufacturer's specifications or a written work procedure.

#### **Can I point a nail gun at a co-worker as a joke?**

No. If a tool ejects pins, nails or other objects, it cannot be pointed at another person.

#### **My co-worker is using a sledgehammer to hit a spike into the ground. Can I use my hand to hold the spike for him?**

No. Where a person works with a tool that is to be struck by another person, the tool to be struck must be in by a holding device. In the example above, tongs may be a good holding device.

#### **What are the requirements for a portable power-operated hand tool?**

A portable power-operated hand tool must:

- be repaired by a trained and knowledgeable person
- Where powered by electricity, be double insulated or grounded
- Where lines or hoses are connected to the tool, have a shut-off mechanism that the operator can easily reach; and
- be explosion-proof if there is a risk of an explosive atmosphere.

#### **Can I run lines and hoses across aisles in the workplace?**

Hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical and electrical lines and hoses should not run across aisles, travel ways or work areas. If it cannot be avoided, the lines and hoses must be adequately protected.

**What is a powder-actuated tool?**

A powder-actuated tool is one using a powder generated explosive (a cartridge or shell for example) for fastening or attaching.

**Is there a standard available?**

Yes; an employer will ensure that ANSI Standard A10.3 - 1995 “American National Standard for Construction and Demolition - Powder Actuated Fastening Devices - Safety Requirements” are followed for the tool and the load; and for the competent person operating the tool - Section 1 to 9.