

## Safe Work Procedure

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### Explosive Actuated Fastening Tools

- Wear CSA approved safety glasses, face shield and other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including hart hats.
- Brace yourself at all times when working on ladders or scaffolds to maintain good balance.
- Keep tools pointed in a safe direction.
- Do not carry loaded tools from job to job.
- Do not permit bystanders in the immediate vicinity of the work. It may be necessary for the working area to be shielded to protect against possible ricochet.
- Clean and maintain tools in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Check tools prior to use to ensure they are in good working order.
- Remove defective tools from service, tag out and remove immediately until repaired or replaced.
- Store tools and cartridges in a locked container when not in use.
- Use the tool at right angles to the work surface.
- Check the chamber before using to see that the barrel is clean and free from any obstruction.
- Do not use the tool where flammable or explosive vapors, dusts or other such substances are present.
- Do not place your hand over the front (muzzle) end of a loaded tool.
- Use only projectiles (nails, studs,etc.) recommended by the tool manufacturer.
- Ensure that base material has no holes or openings and is of sufficient consistency that a projectile would not pass right through.
- Do not load tool until immediately before use.
- Do not force a projectile into a working surface which is harder than the projectile being used. If the base material is unknown, use a hand hammer to drive the projectile, using it as a centre punch.
- Do not leave loaded tool unattended.

## Explosive Actuated Fastening Tools – Continued

- **Use of charge cartridges**
  - Use only cartridges recommended by the tool manufacturer.
  - Check the colour of the cartridge is appropriate for work being done. Charge cartridges are coloured coded for strength.
  - Make the first trial fixing with the weakest or lowest strength charge cartridge.
  - Provide adequate ventilation in confined spaces where explosive actuated tools are used.
  - Hold the tool in fixing position for no less than 15 seconds when tool misfires. Keep the tool pointed in a direction which will not cause injuries. Unload cartridge with utmost caution.
  - Exercise caution when using tools near live electrical circuits. Ensure fastenings do not penetrate live circuits that are buried or hidden in the base material.
  - Keep cartridges in a lock up when not in use.
  - Do not attempt to force a cartridge into a tool, do not discard unfired cartridges carelessly.
  - Do not carry cartridges loose or in a pocket. Carry them in the manufacturer's package.

**“Only trained, competent and authorized personnel who are familiar with the regulations governing the use of the tools are to operate these actuated fastening tools.”**