

**NUMBER 18.0 – COMPRESSED AIR**

Number: 18.0

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Revised: 3/2023

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**1.0 PURPOSE:**

To provide a standard procedure for all Signature facilities regarding the proper use of compressed air and to minimize the potential risk of accident or injury associated with the improper use of compressed air.

**2.0 POLICY:**

Each Signature facility will comply with OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.242(b) – Compressed Air.

**3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. It is the responsibility of the **Facility Leader** to ensure compliance with this procedure in its entirety.
- B. It is the responsibility of all **Employees** to follow the requirements of this procedure.

**4.0 PROCEDURE:**

- A. Compressed air shall NOT be used for part or machine cleaning purposes except when the pressure is reduced to less than 30 PSI, and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment being used.
- B. Employees are NEVER to use compressed air to clean themselves, another employee or their clothing.
- C. Employees using compressed air must wear approved eye protection (see Procedure 1.0 PPE) and all other required personal protective equipment.
- D. All compressed air nozzles (i.e. air guns) are to have relief valves or relief ports to ensure the air pressure remains at 30 PSI or below when the tip is blocked.
- E. Modification of air nozzles, which change or remove the relief valves or relief ports, is forbidden.
- F. All air hoses and connection points should be inspected before use for leaks, weak spots, fraying, damage, oil penetration or other issues that would weaken the hose or connection point. Any hose or connection point found to be unsafe must be immediately removed from service.
- G. All air hoses must have a warning label within three feet of the operator end stating, "Safety Alert – Do Not Use Compressed Air on Yourself or Others".
- H. Air hoses should never be modified to stop air flow (i.e. kinked, clamped, etc.). A control valve or other approved device should be used if the flow of air needs to be interrupted.
- I. All air hoses should be kept off the floor to avoid tripping hazards and/or damage by material handling equipment, etc. The use of self-retracting reels or broad hooks is recommended. Do not hang a hose over a hook, nail, angle iron or similar where the hose can be damaged.
- J. It is the responsibility of each employee to report any hazardous situation and not wait for a hose or connection to fail if a danger is believed to exist.



## SAFETY POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

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- K. Employees failing to comply with this procedure will be disciplined in accordance with normal progressive disciplinary procedures for the facility.

#### **5.0 ATTACHMENT / FORMS:**

NONE

#### **6.0 PROCEDURE HISTORY**

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