

The instructions recommended within this document apply to normal risk conditions. If the Air Compressor is to be operated in a dangerous or hostile environment, the user/client is responsible for conducting an appropriate risk analysis and applying suitable controls to mitigate those additional risks.

This instruction should be read in conjunction with the Risk Assessment procedure for the Air Compressor.

Safety risks:

- Unsecured hoses whipping under pressure
- Compressed Air

You must wear this personal protective equipment when doing this task:



Pre-Operational Checks:

- ✓ Locate and ensure you are familiar with all machine operations and controls.
- ✓ Ensure no slip/trip hazards are present in workspace and walkways.
- ✓ Put the compressor in a suitable location for safe operation.
- ✓ Lock the wheels on the base of the compressor to prevent movement.
- ✓ Check that all fittings and connections are in good condition prior to starting.
- ✓ Check all fittings are securely connected prior to being pressurized.
- ✓ Check fuel level (if applicable) and/ or power supply.
- ✓ Faulty equipment must not be used. Immediately report suspect machinery to Rapid Hire.
- ✓ Locate and ensure you are familiar with the operation of the ON/OFF starter.
- ✓ Drain water from storage tank.

Safe Operation:

1. Start the compressor noting pressure increase and cut-out/cut-in pressure.
2. Listen for any air leaks from any flexible airlines and immediately report if any leaks are observed.
3. Do not blow compressed air on skin.
4. Adjust pressure regulator to suit work requirements.
5. Check the compressor at regular intervals.
6. Switch off machine when work complete.
7. Leave the machine, hose and work area in a safe, clean and tidy state.

Storage & Maintenance:

1. Secure air compressor leads.
2. Ensure power is turned off at mains.

Safe Operating Procedure Compressed Air

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Air Compressor Risk Assessment

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Likely Risk Issue	Who/ What may be harmed? (Specific Persons)	What is the Rate Level? (Rate risk as Low, Medium or High)	What Risk Control Actions Needs to Be Taken? (What needs to be considered so that the risks are identified and effectively controlled)	Time Frame
Electrocution	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S) – 2 Likelihood of Risk (L) – 2 Overall Risk (S x L) = 4 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator to check for damaged electrical cords prior to use Immediately isolate equipment from the main power supply and DO NOT USE Report to management immediately 	Each hire
Noise	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S) - 2 Likelihood of Risk (L) - 2 Overall Risk (S x L) = 4 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate hearing protection is worn 	Each hire
Fire, Heat, Burns, explosion & injuries from compressor	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S) - 3 Likelihood of Risk (L) - 2 Overall Risk (S x L) = 6 MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure equipment is maintained and in good condition before use DO NOT USE FAULTY EQUIPMENT. REPORT IMMEDIATELY Use equipment as per manufacturers recommendations No naked flames in work area Ensure safety devices e.g. safety valve and motor overload are fitted and working to minimise pressure buildup Ensure compressor is in a well-ventilated area to prevent inhaling vapours or fumes Take caution when fuelling, clean up spills Do not blow compressed air on skin Allow compressor to cool down before packing away Put compressor in a suitable location for safe operation and away from obstruction Never run the equipment in excess of the safe working pressure Wear correct PPE 	Each hire
Slips, Trips and falls	Participants Operators Spectators Staff	Severity of Risk (S) - 1 Likelihood of Risk (L) - 2 Overall Risk (S x L) = 3 LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear appropriate footwear Ensure appropriate cleaning and housekeeping practices are maintained to minimise the risk of slips, trips and falls 	Each hire

Calculation of Risk Evaluation

Severity of Risk (S) is judged by evaluating the effects of the hazard if the risk occurs. This is evaluated as Minor = 1, Major = 2, Serious = 3

Risk Likelihood (L) - The likelihood of the harm occurring is evaluated on the basis of: Unlikely =1, Possible = 2, Likely = 3

Overall Risk is calculated by multiplying the figure for Severity (S) and Likelihood (L).

The overall risk figure calculated is related to the Risk Level of either Low: 1 to 3; Medium: 4 to 6 or High: 7 to 9

NB This is a generic risk assessment only. It is advisable to carry out a site-specific assessment prior to using this equipment.