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OSHA Regulations Pertaining to Use of Compressed Air for Cleaning

29 CFR Part 1910.242 Hand and portable powered tools and equipment, general.

(b) Compressed air used for cleaning. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to less than 30 psi and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment.

OSHA Instruction STD 1-13.1

OSHA PROGRAM DIRECTIVE #100-1

Subject: Reduction of Air Pressure Below 30 psi for Cleaning Purposes

Attachment: Acceptable Methods for Complying with
41 CFR 50-204.8 and 29 CFR 1910.242(b)

1. Purpose. To provide guidance and examples of what alternate systems will meet the requirements of this section, and to clarify its intent.
2. Background. A number of inquiries have been received requesting a clarification of the meaning of 1910.242(b) also known as 41 CFR 50-2048 under the Walsh-Healey Act.
3. Interpretation. The phrase "reduce to less than 30 psi" means that the downstream pressure of the air at the nozzle (nozzle pressure) or opening of a gun, pipe, cleaning lance, etc., used for cleaning purposes will remain at a pressure level below 30 psi for all static conditions. The requirement of dynamic flow are such that in the case when dead ending occurs a static pressure at the main orifice shall not exceed 30 psi. This requirement is necessary in order to prevent a back pressure buildup in case the nozzle is obstructed or dead ended. See Enclosure (1) for two acceptable methods of meeting this requirement. Also, there is no intent to restrict the diameter of the nozzle orifice or the volume (CFM) flowing from it.

 "Effective chip guarding" means any method or equipment which will prevent a chip or particle (of whatever size) from being blown into the eyes or unbroken skin of the operator or other workers. Effective chip guarding may be separate from the air nozzle as in the case where screens or barriers are used. The use of protective cone air nozzles is acceptable in general for protection of the operator but barriers, baffles or screens may be required to protect other workers if they are exposed to flying chips or particles.
4. Action. Inquiries about subject section should be handled in accordance with this instruction.
5. Effective Date. This instruction is effective immediately, and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.

29 CFR Part 1910.95 Occupational noise exposure.

(a) Protection against the effects of noise exposure shall be provided when the sound levels exceed those shown in Table G-16 when measured on the A scale of a standard sound level meter at slow response.

	Table G-16 Permissible Noise Exposures									
Duration per day, in hours	8.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.25	
Sound level, dBA slow response	90	92	95	97	100	102	105	110	115	