

Purpose: To provide guidance on defenses supporting safe execution of abrasive blasting activities.



NOTE: This procedure does not apply to abrasive blasting process pipework. If blasting is conducted on process pipework, a thorough hazard assessment must be conducted, and adequate defenses implemented.

Planning for Abrasive Blasting Activities

When planning abrasive blasting activities ensure the following:

- If possible, conduct blasting activities in a remote area.
- Use appropriate barricades and flagging.
- Place spent material in a disposal area complying with regulations.
- Understand Industrial hygiene hazards and defenses including the use of respiratory protection and ventilation as required.

Selection of Blasting Medium

When selecting abrasive blasting medium, the following applies:

- Use silica-free media whenever possible.
- Engage the respective HS Coordinator and/or Industrial Hygiene representative in the selection of abrasive blasting media.
- The SDS (Safety data Sheet) is readily available.

Abrasive Blasting Equipment

Ensure the following when using abrasive blasting equipment:

- A dead man switch is located at the nozzle.
- An excel-flow valve (shut-off valve) is located between the compressor and air supply hose.
- Whip checks are installed at each connection.
- Blast nozzle and couplings are fitted to prevent weakness from abrasive flow.
- Air is removed from hose and nozzle prior to releasing the nozzle.
- Nozzle is always positioned away from personnel when in use.

Fire Prevention Defenses

The following fire prevention defenses apply when conducting activities in areas with potential fire or explosion hazards:

- Tanks and equipment being blasted are grounded.

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- Blasting machine is connected electrically to same ground.
- Antistatic/static-dissipating blast hose types.
- Bond and ground the blast hose nozzle to prevent static charge buildup.

Personal Protective Equipment

In addition to the basic PPE, workers exposed to nozzle blast must wear:

- CSA approved blasting hood with integrated hard hat.
 - Supplied air respirators or other respiratory protective equipment as indicated by air monitoring. See Breathing Air Guideline for details.
 - PPE that can be closed at the wrist, ankles, and other openings.
 - Leather apron or other heavy-duty/shot-resistant clothing.
 - Canvas or leather gauntlets.
 - Appropriate hearing protection.
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