

## Safety Alert

# SAFE USE OF ANGLE GRINDERS

Issue Date: 1 December 2017

### Context:

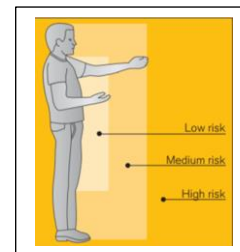
Angle grinders are versatile hand-held tools commonly used in the construction industry. Their ability to perform a variety of tasks is due to the different accessories that can be attached to them. The type of attachment placed on an angle grinder depends on the task being performed and the materials being used. The most common uses for angle grinders include grinding (with abrasive discs) and cutting (with cut-off discs) – however attachments will vary depending on whether the operator is working with metal, stone, tiles or other materials.

### Hazard:

- ☒ The most common causes of injury to operators and nearby workers from angle grinders are lacerations from attachments that break and become projectiles, and lacerations from angle grinder kickbacks
- ☒ Kickback happens when the angle grinder suddenly thrusts back towards the operator as a result of it grabbing or jamming on the materials being worked on.
- ☒ Complacency – You have completed a task many times and have never been hurt before
- ☒ Workers not considering the potential hazards associated with a task
- ☒ Poor hand or body position

### Actions Required:

- ☒ When purchasing an angle grinder, the following safety features should be considered:
  - ☒ anti-kickback safety clutch
  - ☒ soft-start vibration reducing handle
  - ☒ restart protection
  - ☒ grinder fitted with braking system to rapidly stop the wheel
  - ☒ noise-reduction grinding disk.
- ☒ Ensure operators and nearby workers wear appropriate PPE (eg hearing protection, safety goggles, face shield and fire-retardant clothing).
- ☒ Ensure the attachment selected is designed for the purpose it will be used (eg only use abrasive discs for grinding and cut-off discs for cutting).
- ☒ Ensure the maximum speed (RPM) marked on the attachment is higher than the maximum speed of the angle grinder (see picture).
- ☒ Never remove guards.
- ☒ Ensure guards are fitted securely in the correct position before use.
- ☒ Ensure the thickness and diameter of attachments is within the angle grinder ratings.
- ☒ Before use, ensure the auxiliary handle is attached.
- ☒ Ensure operators grip both handles during use.
- ☒ Ensure operators do not use liquids when working with angle grinders.
- ☒ Ensure angle grinders are used in a dry environment.
- ☒ Ensure angle grinders stop turning before being put down.
- ☒ Ensure, where possible, work is positioned in the operator's best working zone –between shoulders and knees (see picture).
- ☒ Ensure flammable substances are not placed or stored in areas where angle grinders are used.



For further information'

[http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/14580/WS\\_ANGLE\\_GRINDER\\_GUIDANCE\\_NOTE\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/14580/WS_ANGLE_GRINDER_GUIDANCE_NOTE_WEB.pdf)