

OSHA Regulations

Standards - 29 CFR, 1910.242 (partial):

(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.

Standards - 29 CFR, 1915.131 (partial):

(e) Before use, pneumatic tools shall be secured to the extension hose or whip by some positive means to prevent the tool from becoming accidentally disconnected from the whip.

Standards - 29 CFR, 1926.302 (partial):

(b)(1) Pneumatic power tools shall be secured to the hose or whip by some positive means to prevent the tool from becoming accidentally disconnected.

(b)(2) Safety clips or retainers shall be securely installed and maintained on pneumatic impact (percussion) tools to prevent attachments from being accidentally expelled.

(b)(3) All pneumatically driven nailers, staplers and other similar equipment provided with automatic fastener feed, which operate at more than 100 PSI pressure at the tool shall have a safety device on the muzzle to prevent the tool from ejecting fasteners, unless the muzzle is in contact with the work surface.

(b)(4) Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to 30 PSI and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment which meets the requirements of Subpart E of this part. The 30 PSI requirement does not apply for concrete form, mill scale and similar cleaning purposes.

(b)(5) The manufacturer's safe operating pressure for hoses, pipes, valves, filters and other fittings shall not be exceeded.

(b)(6) The use of hoses for hoisting or lowering tools shall not be permitted.

(b)(7) All hoses exceeding ½" inside diameter shall have a safety device at the source of supply or branch line to reduce pressure in case of hose failure.

Standards - 29 CFR, 1926.306

(a) "General requirements"

(a)(1) "Application." This section applies to compressed air receivers, and other equipment used in providing and utilizing compressed air for performing operations such as cleaning, drilling, hoisting, and chipping. On the other hand, however, this section does not deal with the special problems created by using compressed air to convey materials nor the problems created when men work in compressed air as in tunnels and caissons. This section is not intended to apply to compressed air machinery and equipment used on transportation vehicles such as steam railroad cars, electric railway cars, and automotive equipment.

(a)(2) "New and existing equipment."

(a)(2)(i) All new air receivers installed after the effective date of these regulations shall be constructed in accordance with the 1968 edition of the A.S.M.E. Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section VIII.

(a)(2)(ii) All safety valves used shall be constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with the A.S.M.E. Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII Edition 1968.

(b) 1926.306(b) "Installation and equipment requirements"

(b)(1) "Installation." Air receivers shall be so installed that all drains, handholes, and manholes therein are easily accessible. Under no circumstances shall an air receiver be buried underground or located in an inaccessible place.

(b)(2) "Drains and traps." A drain pipe and valve shall be installed at the lowest point of every air receiver to provide for the removal of accumulated oil and water. Adequate automatic traps may be installed in addition to drain valves. The drain valve on the air receiver shall be opened and the receiver completely drained frequently and at such intervals as to prevent the accumulation of excessive amounts of liquid in the receiver.

(b)(3) "Gages and valves."

(b)(3)(i) Every air receiver shall be equipped with an indicating pressure gage (so located as to be readily visible) and with one or more spring-loaded safety valves. The total relieving capacity of such safety valves shall be such as to prevent pressure in the receiver from exceeding the maximum allowable working pressure of the receiver by more than 10 percent.

(b)(3)(ii) No valve of any type shall be placed between the air receiver and its safety valve or valves.

Standards - 29 CFR, 1926.603 (partial):

(a)(9) Steam hose leading to a steam hammer or jet pipe shall be securely attached to the hammer with an adequate length of at least ¼" diameter chain or cable to prevent whipping in the event the joint at the hammer is broken. Air hammer hoses shall be provided with the same protection as required for steam lines.

(a)(10) Safety chains, or equivalent means, shall be provided for each hose connection to prevent the line from thrashing around in case the coupling becomes disconnected.

The regulations may be viewed in full on the OSHA website, <http://www.osha.gov>. Please check the website for updates.