

Compressor Safety 101

Safety is our number one priority at Atlas Copco. We've put together some helpful basics to help ensure you and those around you are safe while operating a diesel or electric air compressor.

Always follow the safety, maintenance and operational instructions from the machines instruction booklet.



What to do...

- Only pressure vessels built to a national or international standard should be used for air receivers and **must be certified for use in intended region**.
- Each region or work site may have different required regulations for compressed air. **Know your site and region requirements**.
- Use heavy duty clamps and fittings made especially for compressed air hose and only **use the correct type and size** of hose end fittings and connectors.
- Always **store hoses properly** and away from heat sources or direct sunlight. Hose reels can decrease chances of injury, as well as increase hose life.
- When blowing compressed air through a hose or air line, ensure that the open end is held securely. A free end can whip and can cause injury. Open the supply air valve carefully and **ensure that any ejected particles will be restrained**. A blocked hose can become a dangerous "compressed air gun."
- Make sure all hoses exceeding 1/2 in ID have a safety device **at the source of supply or branch line** to reduce the pressure in case of hose failure (per OSHA regulations).
- Isolating valves should be designed to be locked in the "off" position so that **air pressure cannot be applied accidentally** while work is being done on the machine.

- **Always wear hearing protection** as exposure to excessive noise can damage hearing. Noise reducing mufflers can be installed on machines to reduce the noise health hazard.
- When towing or lifting, make sure the towing system (vehicle and connections) or the lifting device (crane, forklift and slings) **are rated for the GVWR**.
- Always follow the safety, maintenance and **operational instructions** from the machines instruction booklet.

What not to do...

- Never crimp, couple, or uncouple a pressurized hose. Shut off valves and **bleed down pressure** before making any hose connections.
- Do not use air directly from a compressor for breathing purposes unless the system has been **specifically designed** for such purpose and suitable breathing air filters and regulators are in place.
- Never alter or install an A.S.M.E. safety relief valve that has a higher PSIG rating than the **pressure vessel rating** to which it is installed.
- **Never apply compressed air** to the skin or direct it at a person. Even air at a pressure of 15 psig can cause serious injury.
- Never use a compressed air hose **to clean dirt or dust** from your clothing or body.

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