



Policy:	Abrasive Wheels	Reference:	ABSES0001
		Review Date:	03/2023

Purpose.

To ensure the correct and safe use of all Abrasive Wheels by SES Engineering (Newark) Ltd employees for the prevention of accidents, in particular injury sustained.

Scope.

This policy applies to all SES Engineering (Newark) Ltd employees. The legal requirements of the use of abrasive wheels are mainly covered by *The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992*. (PUWER), which have replaced many of the provisions of the Abrasive Wheels Regulations 1970. Control of noise at Work regulations 2005 and the Personal Protective Equipment at Work regulations 1992.

Risk Areas.

There are six main risks when using an abrasive wheel:

1. Contact with the wheel or disc when in motion.
2. Shattering of the wheel due to incorrect use.
3. Excessive vibration and noise emitted whilst cutting.
4. Flying particles of work or wheel.
5. Nuisance dust.
6. Carbon monoxide fumes emitted from using petrol driven cutters where there is inadequate ventilation.

Procedure.

Risk assessment managers, but also employees using the abrasive wheel must ensure that:

- The abrasive wheel must be suitable for:
 1. The work undertaken.
 2. The conditions under which it is likely to be used.
 3. Installed such that maintenance can be undertaken safely.
 4. Discs and wheels are stored in a safe location to prevent damage from substances or other materials.
- Guards and shields provided must be kept in position while the abrasive wheel is in motion, must be used correctly and kept clean so that the users view is not obscured.
- The abrasive wheel, including guards and shields and any ancillary safety appliances such as local exhaust ventilation, must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Guards provided are designed, constructed, and maintained to contain fragments of the wheel that are likely to fly off in the event of bursting as well as to prevent access to dangerous parts of machinery.
- All users and those that supervise users must be adequately trained.
- Every abrasive wheel is correctly mounted and used only by those deemed competent.
- To minimise the risk of bursting, wheels will always run within the specified maximum rotation speed.
- The maximum rotation speed is marked on the wheel if it is large enough; smaller wheels will have a notice shown in the workroom informing the individual or class, maximum permissible rotation speed. The power-driven spindle will be governed so that its rotating speed does not exceed this.
- Suitable and sufficient personal protective equipment is provided and worn. This will be as a minimum eye protection and ear protection. Where a COSHH assessment indicates the need, respiratory protective equipment must be worn.
- Where the use of an abrasive wheel could affect others, either they are excluded from the area or a physical protection is erected.
- The area in which the abrasive wheel is used is kept tidy, free from any substances likely to cause a slip hazard and is well lit.
- Adequate first aid provisions are available and readily accessible.



- Suitable precautions are taken to avoid the ignition (from sparks emitted) of any flammable or readily combustible material or substance in the location.