COMPRESSED AIR PROGRAM

PURPOSE / SCOPE

The purpose of this safety policy and procedure is to establish procedures for the protection of Winger Contracting Company, herein referred to as Winger, employees working with or on compressed air equipment.

Air compressor storage tanks store excess air that is generated from the compressor. Thus, air compressor storage tanks provide a convenient and readily accessible air source. However, because of the air pressure within these storage tanks, potential dangers can develop if certain practices and precautions are not followed.

This safety policy and procedure provides guidelines for the safe use of air compressor storage tanks. It includes provisions for training, discussion on where these air compressor storage tanks are used, and guidelines for locating drains and traps on air compressor storage tanks. Additionally, it presents requirements for gauges and valves and installation of gauges, valves, drains and traps.

Winger will not tolerate malfunctioning air compressor storage tanks that are a threat to employee safety. When these hazards exist that cannot be eliminated, then engineering practices, administrative practices, safe work practices, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and proper training regarding Air Compressor Storage Tanks will be implemented. These measures will be implemented to minimize those hazards to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where the pressure is reduced to less than 30 p.s.i. and effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment is implemented.

2. Inspections of compressed gas cylinders must be performed. These inspections must follow the guidelines that apply to their scope of work. These guidelines are found in the Hazardous Materials Regulations of the Department of Transportation and pamphlets C-6 and C-8 from the Compressed Gas Association.

3. Every air receiver shall be equipped with an indicating pressure gauge, 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.

4. All safety valves shall be tested frequently and at regular intervals to determine whether they are in good operating condition. Safety valves, indicating/controlling devices, and other safety appliances need to be constructed, located, and installed so they cannot be rendered inoperative by any means.

5. The drain valve on air receivers 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.

6. DO NOT cause dust to become airborne during clean-up. Remove dust from equipment with a water hose or wet-wiping rather than with compressed air. (silica exposure section)

7. **NEVER** use oxygen as a substitute for compressed air.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Managers/Unit Heads

- are responsible for ensuring that adequate funds are available for the purchase and repair of air compressor storage tanks in their areas.
- will be responsible for identifying the employees affected by this safety policy and procedure.
- will obtain and coordinate the required training for affected employees.
- will also ensure proper use and maintenance through regular standard audits of air compressor storage tanks.

Supervisors

- will ensure that only those employees who have been trained to work with air compressor storage tanks will be allowed to operate such equipment.
- will ensure that equipment as needed is available and is in good working condition. If the equipment is not in good working condition, they will ensure that such equipment is repaired.
- will ensure that air compressor storage tanks are inspected every six months and that employees are provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as necessary for their job. Appendix A provides a generic checklist for use by supervisors.

Employees

- will inspect air compressor storage tanks prior to use and note any damage or defects.
- shall immediately report any damages or defects to their supervisors.
- will empty manual drains and taps on a regularly scheduled basis.

Safety Department

- will provide prompt assistance to managers/unit heads, supervisors, or others as applicable as necessary on any matter concerning this safety policy and procedure.
- will assist in developing or securing required training.
- will also work with Purchasing to ensure that all newly purchased air compressor storage tanks comply with current safety regulations.
- will provide consultative service and audit assistance to ensure effective implementation of this safety policy and procedure.

TRAINING

Winger employees will be trained in:

- The purpose of air compressor storage tanks
- The basic operation of air compressor storage tanks
- Maintenance requirements of drains and traps
- Reading gauges and operating valves
- Identifying damage and defects in the storage tanks

This training shall be performed upon initial employment and/or job reassignment. Periodic refresher training shall also be conducted at the discretion of the supervisor.

SOURCE CREDITS:

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) www.osha.gov
Compressed Air Storage Tank Safety Program, Safety Info, https://www.safetyinfo.com/written-safety-programs-compressed-air-storage-tank-safety-program-free-index/

DOCUMENT CONTROL:

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