

ABRASIVE WHEELS POLICY

1. Scope of Policy

The use of abrasive wheels is covered primarily by the **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER 98)** and further guidance is given by the HSE in the publication HSG17 “Safety in the Use of Abrasive Wheels” which gives abrasive wheel information and advice.

This publication only offers guidelines, however, to comply with the law and the guidance given in HSG17 will enable the college to do this.

All reasonable steps will be taken by the college to ensure the health and safety of staff who may work with abrasive wheels. An abrasive wheel is any powered wheel, cylinder, disc or point which is constructed of or coated in abrasive particles. The college acknowledges that health and safety hazards may arise from the use of this equipment. Abrasive wheels generally rotate at very high speeds and contact with the revolving wheel can cause serious injury. Abrasive particles are thrown off during the grinding process and can cause injury, particularly to the eye. Wheels may also disintegrate or “burst”, causing fragments of the wheels to be projected at great speed in any direction. Therefore, it is the intention of the college to ensure that any risks are reduced to a minimum.

In order to provide a safe working environment for when abrasive wheels are being used the college will:

- carry out risk assessments for any abrasive wheel tasks and so far as is reasonably practicable, take measures to reduce the risks found as a result of the assessment
- ensure that all equipment used for grinding operations is regularly maintained, is in good condition and is suitable for the task
- provide adequate information, instruction and training for all staff who use abrasive wheels
- provide safe systems of work with regards to the use of abrasive wheels
- ensure staff understand that they must select the correct abrasive wheel for the job and that damaged or faulty wheels should not be used
- ensure that any guards are securely attached to the body of the grinding machine and are strong enough to withstand the impact of flying fragments should a wheel burst
- ensure that abrasive wheels do not run in excess of their maximum permissible speeds which must be clearly marked in rpm on all wheels over 55mm in diameter. For smaller wheels the information must be displayed on or adjacent to where the wheel is being used
- ensure the legal requirement of displaying min and max spindle speeds for all power driven machines for use with abrasive wheels is adhered to
- ensure any maintenance or repairs carried out on abrasive wheels are undertaken by a competent person

- provide local exhaust ventilation (LEV) for dust that is generated from the process of abrasive wheels and ensure it is regularly maintained
- will keep records of training provided to staff on abrasive wheels
- will keep maintenance records for no less than 2 years

Staff will:

- inspect wheels and equipment before and after each use
- report any loss or defects in equipment
- not use equipment that is faulty
- adhere to control measures detailed in the risk assessments
- follow the safe systems of work
- wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE), as identified by the risk assessment, at all times when using abrasive wheels.

2. References

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, as amended
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998, as amended
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

3. Key Legal Requirements

- Adopt an appropriate policy
- Assess the risks within College activities where abrasive wheels are used
- Provide staff with information, training and supervision
- Keep records of training, PPE issued and any health surveillance.
- Undertake 14 monthly statutory inspections of LEV as required by COSHH

Further information
Dust from Abrasive wheels COSHH SR21 (hse.gov.uk)
Safety in the use of abrasive wheels (hse.gov.uk)

Newbattle Abbey College is committed to the active pursuit of challenging discrimination, advancing equality and celebrating diversity

This Policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant College policies, procedures and guidance documents, whether specifically listed above or subsequently published or amended.

The College reserves the right to update, introduce, or revise policies and procedures from time to time.

Compliance with the most current versions of applicable policies and procedures, as published, is expected.

Title:	Abrasive Wheels Policy
Lead Officer:	Health and Safety Consultant
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