WHS DOCUMENTS & TEMPLATES

DOC-CAP-PACK · Compressed Air and Pressure Washer Safety & Competency Pack

Product Overview

For: Businesses whose workers use compressors, air tools, air hoses and pressure washers: owners, supervisors, WHS advisers and workplace assessors

Version 1.0 · 9 November 2026

SAMPLE

Editable compressed air and pressure washer safety documents that work together: a safe work instruction, a pre-use checklist, a VOC and a supervisor's field verification.

Compressed air and high pressure water can be forced through the skin, hoses whip when couplings fail, and lances push back hard. A verification of competency is how a business checks an operator uses rated hoses and whip checks, never points air or spray at people and releases pressure before changes, and keeps a record of it.

This pack answers three questions. The safe work instruction tells the operator what to do and when to stop. The VOC checks they can do it. The field verification checks the controls are working on site. A pre-use checklist is the link used every time.

No high risk work licence is needed for using compressed air equipment or pressure washers under the WHS Regulations or, in Victoria, the OHS Regulations. The business must still make sure each worker is trained, competent and supervised for the work. Some pressure equipment, such as larger air receivers, may need to be registered with the regulator and inspected in service. Electrical repairs are for a licensed electrician. A VOC is the business's own check that a worker can do the work safely at its site: it is not a licence and it is not a nationally recognised qualification.

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Compressed Air and Pressure Washer Safe Work Instruction

How to use compressors, air tools and pressure washers safely at [Site name]

Document number		**Version**	
Site		**Work area**	
Approved by		**Review date**	

1 Purpose and scope

This instruction sets out how to use compressed air equipment and pressure washers, including **[Make and model]**, safely at **[Site name]**: hoses and couplings, whip checks, pressure ratings, reaction force, never blowing down people or clothing, and the points where the operator must stop.

It applies to every operator at the site, including contractors and hire users. It does not replace the manufacturer's operating instructions. Where they differ, follow the manufacturer and tell your supervisor, so this instruction can be corrected.

2 Who may do the work

- Has a current VOC for this work, and any licence or training the work needs
- Has been authorised by **[Supervisor name]** to do the work at this site
- Is fit for work, and has read this instruction and signed the acknowledgement at the end

Licence

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3 The equipment

Fill in one copy for each item of equipment, or list each one this instruction covers.

Equipment covered: [Make and model]	
Equipment IDs: [Equipment ID]	
Maximum working pressure: [Maximum working pressure]	
Hoses, couplings and whip checks in use	
Manufacturer's instructions kept at: [Operator's manual location]	

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Compressed Air and Pressure Washer VOC Assessment Tool

Verification of competency for one operator, on the equipment and tasks in scope, at [Site name]

Purpose	To check, and record, that a worker can use safely on your plant, at your site, following your procedures.
When to use it	Before a new worker does the work unsupervised at the site; when they start on a new type of machine, attachment or task; at the re-verification interval your business sets; and after any of the review triggers in Part K.
Who completes it	An assessor your business has chosen as competent to assess (see Part B). The candidate completes the knowledge questions and signs Part J.
What goes with it	The Knowledge Questions (Candidate) for the candidate to answer, the Marking Guide (Assessor) with the model answers, and the VOC Register to track who is verified and when they are due.

Before you start

- Agree the scope (Part C) with the candidate's supervisor: what the candidate will do, on what, and where.
- Do the pre-assessment checks (Part D) before anything else. If one fails, do not start.
- The candidate answers the knowledge questions. Mark them with the Marking Guide and record the result in Part E.
- Observe the practical work (Part F) in the real work area, during normal work where it is safe, with other people kept clear.
- Watch for the safety-critical fail criteria (Part G) the whole time. Any one stops the assessment.
- Record the evidence, the outcome and the re-assessment plan (Parts H and I), give feedback, and sign off with the candidate (Part J).

Licences, training and the VOC

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Supervisor Field Verification Checklist

Compressed air and pressure washers: hoses, couplings, whip checks, pressure ratings, reaction force and never blowing down people

Site		**Areas checked**	
Date and time		**Shift**	
Verified by		**Equipment checked (IDs)**	

How to verify

- Visit the area while compressed air and pressure washing work is under way. Look at each control working, not at its paperwork.
- Mark each check Pass, Not met or N/A. Pass means you saw the control in place and working. If you did not see it, it is not a Pass.
- Write what you saw in the evidence column: a location, a photo reference, a record you sampled.
- Talk to the people doing the work, using the questions after the checks. They know where the near misses are.
- Record every Not met in the actions table, with an owner and a due date. Fix what you can on the spot, and record that too.

Escalate now

If a ★ critical control is Not met, act before you leave the area. Stop or restrict the compressed air and pressure washing work there until it is fixed or another control is in place, and tell **[Escalation contact]** the same shift. A failed critical control is a high potential incident: report it as one.

Checks

★ marks a critical control: one whose failure could let a person be injected, struck by a whipping hose or blown down. Delete checks that do not apply, and add your own.

No.	Look for (★ critical control)	Pass	Not met	N/A	What you saw (evidence)
Hoses and couplings					
1	Hoses and couplings sampled are undamaged; whip checks fitted ★	☐	☐	☐	
Pressure ratings					
2	Hoses and fittings are rated at or above the working pressure ★	☐	☐	☐	
People and clothing					
3	No air or spray is pointed at people; nobody blows down clothing or skin ★	☐	☐	☐	
Reaction force					
4	Lances are held with two hands from stable footing; no triggers tied down ★	☐	☐	☐	

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END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

This sample shows a few pages, so you can judge the layout and the quality. Editable compressed air and pressure washer safety documents that work together: a safe work instruction, a pre-use checklist, a VOC and a supervisor's field verification.

What the full product contains

- **Compressed air and pressure washer safe work instruction: hoses, couplings, whip checks, pressure ratings and reaction force; stop-work points**
  02_SAFE_WORK_INSTRUCTION/Compressed Air and Pressure Washer Safe Work Instruction.docx and .pdf
- **Compressed air and pressure washer pre-use checklist: hoses, couplings, whip checks, pressure ratings, triggers and relief valves; defect report and tags**
  03_PRESTART_CHECKS/Compressed Air and Pressure Washer Pre-use Checklist.docx and .pdf
- **Supervisor field verification checklist: hoses, couplings, whip checks, pressure ratings, reaction force and never blowing down people**
  05_FIELD_VERIFICATION/Supervisor Field Verification Checklist.docx and .pdf
- **VOC assessment tool, the same as DOC-CAP-VOC**
  04_VOC_ASSESSMENT/Compressed Air and Pressure Washer VOC Assessment Tool.docx and .pdf
- **VOC knowledge questions (candidate) and marking guide (assessor)**
  04_VOC_ASSESSMENT/Compressed Air and Pressure Washer VOC Knowledge Questions (Candidate) and Compressed Air and Pressure Washer VOC Marking Guide (Assessor), .docx and .pdf
- **Excel VOC register**
  04_VOC_ASSESSMENT/Compressed Air and Pressure Washer VOC Register.xlsx
- **How the documents work together: one page**
  01_START_HERE/How the Documents Work Together.docx and .pdf
- **Setup guide: what to adapt before use**
  01_START_HERE/Setup Guide.docx and .pdf
- **Start here: Read Me First, Product Overview, Permitted Use Terms, Version Information**
  01_START_HERE/ (four PDFs)

Formats

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