

SSOW 07: POWER TOOLS

Issue Number: 08

Date of Issue: 31/01/2026

Based on: RA13

PURPOSE

This Safe System of Work outlines the required controls and safe working practices for the use of power tools across all Lynch operations. It ensures that tools are selected, inspected, operated, and maintained safely and in accordance with PUWER, manufacturer instructions, and RA13.

PPE REQUIREMENTS

For this activity, the following PPE must be worn



High-vis Vest / Jacket (BS EN 471)



Safety Boots (EN ISO 20345:2011) (S3)



Safety Gloves (Cut resistant) (EN 420:2003) for cutting activities.



RPE (FFP3) for dust generating tasks.



Safety Glasses (EN 116:2001)



Mandatory where noise levels are ≥80 dB

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Operatives must be competent in the use of the power tools they are using.
- Operatives must be briefed on RA13.
- Only authorised personnel may inspect or change abrasive wheels.
- Users must know how to use guards, safety devices, and emergency stops.
- Operatives must be able to spot defects, remove unsafe tools from use and report to the line manager.
- HAVS ready reckoner briefing.
- COSHH Awareness

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Power tools appropriate for the task. Low vibration tools and accessories should be selected where practicable.
- Manufacturer-approved accessories, blades, discs, or attachments.
- Guards, safety devices, and handles fitted and functional.
- RCD-protected power supply or battery system.
- 110v transformer.
- Suitable storage for tools when not in use.
- Where tasks generate dust - on-tool extraction.

SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

Pre-Use Checks

- All power tools must be visually inspected before use.
- Operatives must check for damaged cables, missing guards, loose components, cracked casings, worn discs, or any signs of battery overheating.
- Any defective tool must be withdrawn from service immediately, labelled, quarantined until repaired or replaced and reported to your line manager.
- Tools must only be used for their intended purpose and in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- Identify whether the task involves the use of high vibration magnitude tools. Refer to HAVS ready reckoner for tool vibration values and trigger-time limits.
- Identify whether the material being cut, ground or sanded may release hazardous dusts or fumes (e.g., paints, fillers, etc). Apply the relevant COSHH assessments before starting work.

Safe Operation

- Guards and intrinsic safety devices must remain fitted, correctly adjusted, and never bypassed.
- Operatives must maintain a stable footing, secure the workpiece where required and ensure the work area is clear of trip hazards.
- Tools must be held firmly with both hands where designed for two-handed operation.

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- Cutting, grinding, or drilling must be carried out with controlled, steady pressure.
- Rotate tasks to reduce vibration exposure.
- Keep hands warm and dry; avoid excessive grip force.
- Use low-vibration tools and accessories where practicable.
- Limit trigger time in accordance with the HAVS ready reckoner.
- Hearing protection must be worn where noise levels exceed 85db.
- Wear FFP3 RPE where tasks generate dust.
- Secure loose clothing, jewellery and long hair to prevent entanglement in moving parts

Abrasive Wheels

- Only trained and authorised persons may inspect, fit, or change abrasive wheels. Wheels must be checked for cracks, correct speed rating, and compatibility with the tool.
- The maximum operating speed (RPM) of the tool must never exceed the maximum operating speed marked on the wheel.
- Flanges, locking nuts, and guards must be correctly fitted.
- Tools must be allowed to reach full speed before contacting the material, and operators must stand clear of the rotational plane during start-up.

Electrical and Battery Safety

- Tools must be connected to an RCD-protected supply where applicable.
- PAT testing to be undertaken periodically.
- Cables must be routed to avoid damage, water, or entanglement.
- Battery tools must be charged using approved chargers only and stored away from heat sources.
- Damaged batteries must be removed from service immediately.
- Inspect batteries for swelling, overheating or damage. Damaged batteries must be quarantined immediately.

Post Use

- Tools must be switched off, isolated, and allowed to stop fully before being set down.
- Cutting discs and attachments must be removed or stored safely.
- Tools must be cleaned, inspected, and returned to designated storage areas.
- Any defects identified must be reported to your line manager and the tool quarantined.

IDENTIFIED RISKS

The SSOW above has been compiled after identifying the following risks from this activity

- Cuts and abrasions
- Contact with moving parts
- Eye injuries from flying debris
- Electrocution
- Hand-arm strain / injuries
- Fire or explosion from sparks or damaged batteries
- Noise-induced hearing damage
- Vibration-related injuries (HAVS)
- Incorrect fitting of abrasive wheels
- Use of defective or poorly maintained tools
- Exposure to hazardous dust/fumes (grinding, sanding, cutting)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA13

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