

Workplace Safety and Health (Abrasive Blasting) Regulations 2008

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No. S 607

**WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT
(CHAPTER 354A)**

**WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH (ABRASIVE BLASTING) REGULATIONS
2008**

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 65 of the Workplace Safety and Health Act, Mr Gan Kim Yong, Senior Minister of State, charged with the responsibility of the Minister for Manpower, hereby makes the following Regulations:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Workplace Safety and Health (Abrasive Blasting) Regulations 2008 and shall come into operation on 1st February 2009.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“abrasive” means any material used or intended to be used for blasting, and includes metal shot or grit but does not include water;

“blasting” means the cleaning, smoothing, roughening, cutting, preparation or removal of the surface or part of the surface of any building, ship or article using an abrasive propelled or blasted against the building, ship or article by compressed air or steam, by a wheel or by any similar means, excluding hydro-jetting;

“blasting cabinet” means a blasting enclosure where the person carrying out blasting does so from outside the enclosure;

“blasting chamber” means a type of permanent blasting enclosure into which persons may enter;

“blasting enclosure” means any chamber, cabinet or other structure, whether temporary or permanent, designed —

(a) to enclose or accommodate articles being blasted; and

(b) to isolate or minimise hazards of dusts or debris generated by blasting,

being a chamber, cabinet or structure that is used only for the purpose of blasting;

“competent person” means a person who has sufficient experience and training to perform the work required to be carried out;

“device” means a separator, grit recycling unit, dust collector, filter, condensate trap or any other apparatus or machine used in connection with the process of blasting.

Application

3. These Regulations shall apply in relation to all workplaces in which abrasive blasting is carried out.

PART II

ABRASIVES USED IN BLASTING

Abrasives used in blasting

4. It shall be the duty of —

- (a) the employer of any person carrying out any blasting in a workplace; or
- (b) the principal under whose direction any person carries out any blasting in a workplace,

to ensure that no sand or other substance containing free silica is used as an abrasive in blasting or is introduced into or present in any blasting equipment as an abrasive.

Abrasives not to be used again

5. It shall be the duty of —

- (a) the employer of any person carrying out any blasting in a workplace; or
- (b) the principal under whose direction any person carries out any blasting in a workplace,

to ensure that no substance which has been used as an abrasive in blasting is used again or be introduced into or be present in any blasting equipment as an abrasive unless, since last being so used, that substance has, so far as is reasonably practicable, been separated by means of a suitable and effective device from dusts and particles of materials arising from blasting.

PART III

PRECAUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH BLASTING

Safety precautions

6.—(1) It shall be the duty of —

- (a) the employer of any person carrying out any blasting in a workplace; or
- (b) the principal under whose direction any person carries out any blasting in a workplace,

to ensure that the requirements of paragraphs (2) to (8) are complied with.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), no blasting shall be carried out, so far as is reasonably practicable, except in a blasting enclosure.

(3) Where it is not reasonably practicable to carry out blasting in a blasting enclosure —

- (a) all reasonably practicable measures shall be taken to ensure that the dust generated from blasting is minimised and does not cause nuisance or pose any hazard to any person in the workplace at which the blasting is carried

out;

- (b) adequate signs to warn of the hazards associated with blasting shall be provided at suitable locations in the workplace; and
- (c) no person shall be allowed to enter any area where there is a risk of exposure to dust arising from blasting unless the person is wearing suitable personal protective equipment as referred to in regulation 10.

(4) No person shall be allowed to enter any blasting enclosure except for the purpose of carrying out —

- (a) any blasting; or
- (b) the cleaning, repairing or maintenance of the blasting enclosure or any equipment, device or fixture situated therein.

(5) Nothing in paragraph (4) shall operate to interfere with or render unlawful any rescue work or other work necessary for ensuring the safety of life or for preventing damage to property.

(6) Except in the case of a blasting cabinet, every blasting enclosure shall be so constructed as to be safe for any person to enter or work within the blasting enclosure.

(7) All reasonably practical measures shall be taken to protect any person who is outside the blasting enclosure from exposure to dust generated by blasting.

(8) Every door of a blasting chamber shall —

- (a) be kept closed but shall not be securely locked while blasting is being carried out therein; and
- (b) be kept closed for a reasonable time after blasting has ceased.

Construction of blasting chamber

7.—(1) It shall be the duty of the occupier of a workplace in which blasting is carried out within a blasting chamber to ensure that the requirements of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) are complied with.

(2) Every blasting chamber shall be —

- (a) of sound construction;
- (b) so situated or constructed as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, dust escaping from it;
- (c) provided with suitable and adequate means of access which shall at all