



Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office

Bulletin 21-09

Power-Driven Nailers and Staplers

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (Yellow Book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the changes for power-driven nailers and staplers as stated below.

13. H POWER-DRIVEN NAILERS AND STAPLERS

13.H.01 This section applies to hand-held electric, combustion or pneumatically driven nailers, staplers, and other similar equipment (heretofore referred to as “nailers” in this section) which operate by ejecting a fastener into the material to be fastened when a trigger, lever, or other manual device is actuated. This does not apply to common spring-loaded “staple guns”.

13.H.02 Nailers shall have a safety device on the muzzle to prevent the tool from ejecting fasteners unless the muzzle is in contact with the work surface. The contact trip device or trigger shall not be secured in an “on” position.

13.H.03 Nailers shall be operated in a way to minimize the danger to others and the operator from ricochets, air-firing, and firing through materials being fastened.

a. Except when used for attaching sheet goods (sheathing, sub-flooring, plywood, etc.) or roofing products, nailers shall be operated with a sequential trigger system that requires the surface contact trip device to be depressed before the firing trigger can be activated and that limits ejection to one nail per trigger pull before resetting.

b. When used for sheet goods and roofing materials, nailers may be operated in the contact trip mode (bump or bouncenailing) only as allowed by the manufacturer. This mode may only be used when the operator has secure footing, such as on a work platform, floor or deck, and shall not be used when the operator is on a ladder, beam, or similar situations where the operator’s balance and/ or reach may be unstable.



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