

Nail Guns

Handout

Two employees were doing remodeling construction and were building a wall. One of the workers was killed when he was struck by a nail fired from a powder-actuated tool. The tool operator, while attempting to anchor plywood to a 2" X 4" stud, fired the tool. The nail penetrated the stud and the plywood partition prior to striking the victim.

As a result of an OSHA investigation, citations for three serious violations were issued. Had employees been trained in the use of powder-actuated tools and had precautions been taken to prevent the nail from passing through the wall, the accident probably would not have occurred.

Citations that were issued

Employees using powder-actuated tools must be trained in the operation of the particular tool.

Driving into materials easily penetrated must be avoided unless materials are backed by a substance that will prevent the nail from passing completely through and creating a flying missile hazard on the other side.

Operators and assistants using powder-actuated tools must be safeguarded with eye protection.

OSHA regulations for nail guns

The nail gun must be tested each day before loading to ensure the safety devices are working properly.

Use the manufacturer's recommended procedure for testing.

Any tool not working properly during the daily test or while using must be immediately removed from service, tagged, and not used until repair.

You must use the proper personal protective equipment in accordance with Subpart E of the construction regulations.

Tools must not be loaded until just prior to the intended firing time.



Never:

- Point a nail gun, loaded or unloaded, at another person,
- leave loaded tools unattended,
- drive fasteners into very hard or brittle material such as: cast iron, glazed tile, surface hardened steel, glass block, live rock, face brick, or hollow tile, and
- drive a fastener into a spalled area caused by an unsatisfactory fastening.

Do not use nail guns in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.

All tools must be used with the correct shield, guard, or attachment recommended by the manufacturer.

Nail guns save time and energy at construction sites. They can also be deadly when handled incorrectly. Before you pull the trigger, think about where the fastener is going.

