



Date: March 17, 2004
Updated: May 25, 2007
From: Peggy Munsell, Manager of Standards and Technical Resources
Subject: Air Wand Cut-offs

This issue originated as an employer initiated e-mail question on March 17, 2004

Question: I have been told that the Oregon OSHA requires automatic cut-offs on air wands that are used for blow downs and cleaning.

I am referring to pistol grip type air-wands that will stop the air flow when a wand is dropped. I have been unable to find a regulation or letter of interpretation supporting this. Was the statement a true statement, or do the wands just have to have some type of cut-off period, automatic or non-automatic?

Answer: Oregon OSHA does not have a rule requiring hand-held wands, used for compressed air, be equipped with constant pressure controls. If it is determined that pressure is high enough to cause a wand and hose to whip out of control when released, possibly causing injury, then something (such as installing a constant pressure control) needs to be done to control the hazard ([OAR 437-001-0760\(7\)\(a\)](#)). Usually manufactured air nozzles that provide chip guarding ([refer to 1910.242\(b\)](#)) are used for cleaning purposes, and constant pressure controls just come as part of the package.

