PURPOSE

 The purpose of this program is to provide safe guidelines for the operation and maintenance of abrasive blasting equipment and their related components. This program covers all employees involved in abrasive blasting jobs performed by the Company.

1. GENERAL
2. This written program covers the necessary precautions to reduce employee exposure to harmful dust and chemicals during abrasive blasting operations. Whenever hazardous substances such as dusts, fumes, mists, vapors, or gases exist or are produced in the course of work, their concentrations shall not exceed the limits specified in 1926.55(a).
3. When ventilation is used as an engineering control method, the system shall be installed and operated according to the requirements of this program.
4. EMPLOYEE AWARENESS
5. During blasting operations, abrasives and the surface coatings on the materials are shattered and pulverized and the dust formed will contain particles of respirable size. The composition and toxicity of the dust from these sources shall be considered in making an evaluation of the potential health hazards. The Company shall ensure that employee exposures are kept as low as possible by using all the controls necessary.
6. Abrasive blasting can produce airborne Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS). RCS hazards are made worse by smoking and can lead to serious lung disease, permanent disability and early death. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to less than 30psi and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment.
7. RESPIRATORY, EYE & FACE PROTECTION
8. The Company shall ensure that all Respiratory Protective Equipment is properly fit-tested, suits the wearer, the job, the work environment and is compatible with hearing protection.
9. Equipment for protection of the eyes and face shall be supplied to the operator when the respirator design does not provide such protection and to any other personnel working in the vicinity of abrasive blasting operations. This equipment shall conform to the requirements of 1926.102.
10. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES
11. Dust shall not be permitted to accumulate on the floor or on ledges outside of an abrasive-blasting enclosure and dust spills shall be cleaned up promptly. Aisles and walkways shall be kept clear of steel shot or similar abrasive which may create a slipping hazard.
12. The air supply and air compressors used for abrasive-blasting respirators must be free of harmful quantities of dusts, mists, or noxious gases and must meet the requirements for supplied-air quality and use specified in 29 CFR 1910.134(i).
13. All blast cleaning nozzles shall be equipped with an operating valve which must be held open manually. A support shall be provided on which the nozzle may be mounted when it is not in use.
14. The site supervisor shall ensure that all affected employees wear Respiratory Protective Equipment and blasting suits.
15. OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES
16. Organic abrasives, which are combustible, shall be used only in automatic systems. Where flammable or explosive dust mixtures may be present, the construction of the equipment, including the exhaust system and all electrical wiring, shall conform to the requirements of American National Standard Installation of Blower and Exhaust Systems for Dust, Stock, and Vapor Removal or Conveying, Z33.1-1961 (NFPA 91-1961), and Subpart S of this part.
17. The blast nozzle shall be bonded and grounded to prevent the build-up of static charges. Where flammable or explosive dust mixtures may be present, the abrasive blasting enclosure, the ducts, and the dust collector shall be constructed with loose panels or explosion venting areas, located on sides away from any occupied area, to provide for pressure relief in case of explosion, following the principles set forth in the National Fire Protection Association Explosion Venting Guide. NFPA 68-1954. Additionally, workers shall be provided with blast suits, protective gloves and footwear.
18. DAILY EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS
19. Perform daily inspection on Respiratory Protective Equipment by looking for signs of damage and needed repairs.
20. Follow the manufacturer’s maintenance schedules and keep equipment in effective and efficient working order.
21. Visually check compressed airlines for signs of damage before use.
22. Ensure that all pressurized air line connections (Crows Foot) are equipped with “Whip Checks” and double pinned with “Safety Keepers”.
23. Check the air flow and air quality to Respiratory Protective Equipment before each use.
24. EMPLOYEE TRAINING

 The Company has established a Respiratory Protection Program as defined and described in 1926.103, and shall train all employees wherever it is necessary to use respiratory protective equipment. All affected employees shall be provided with respirators or Type CE blasting hoods/helmets. Training shall cover the following topics at a minimum:

1. All workers shall be educated that silica dust can cause serious lung diseases
2. Employees shall be properly trained on the use, maintenance and care of Respiratory Protective Equipment as it relates to abrasive blasting
3. Use coveralls that do not retain dust. Use synthetic fabrics, not cotton or knit
4. Never wash work clothing that is used for abrasive blasting at home due to dust that may contain silica
5. Skin creams should be used to help in washing contamination from the skin

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| **Reviewed and Approved** |
| Quality Manager or President |   |   |
|   | Date |