

# SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF COATED ABRASIVE BELTS

**PASS ON THIS LEAFLET TO THOSE USING COATED ABRASIVE BELTS**

**The recommendations contained in this leaflet should be followed  
by all users of belts in the interests of their personal safety**

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF SAFETY

Abrasive products improperly used can be very dangerous

- Always follow the instructions provided by the abrasive product and machine supplier.
- Ensure that the abrasive product is suitable for its intended use.

Be aware of the hazards likely during the use of abrasive belts and observe the recommended precautions to be taken:

- Bodily contact with the abrasive product at operating speed.
- Injury resulting from product breakage during use.
- Grinding debris, sparks and dust generated by the grinding process.
- Noise.
- Vibration.

Never use a machine that is not in good working order or one with defective parts.

Employers should carry out a risk assessment on all individual abrasive processes to determine the appropriate protective measures necessary. They should ensure that their employees are suitably trained to carry out their duties.

### Storage of abrasive belts

Climate conditions for storage are preferably 18-22°C and 45-65% relative humidity. Avoid exposure to heat sources, direct sunlight or excessive moisture. Ensure that product and safety information delivered with the product is available for the end-user.

Wide belts should be removed from their packaging and stored near to the machine for at least 48 hours before mounting to stabilise to the ambient conditions.

When unpacked, belts should be hung on a rod or peg not less than 50mm diameter

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This leaflet is only intended to provide basic safety recommendations.

For more detailed information on the safe use of coated abrasive products, a comprehensive Safety Code is available from FEPA or your national Trade Association.

## Specific safety recommendations

- Do not use near flammable materials
- Abrasive belts can tear. Please take precautions against the risk of breakage of the belt (e.g. protective clothing and devices, safety equipment of machinery).
- Ensure that people nearby are protected from chips, sparks, debris, fumes, dust or noise. Belt grinding operations may produce high concentrations of dust, gas or mist, which can represent a health hazard as well as a risk of explosion.
- Prevent long hair, ties, loose clothes or jewellery from getting into contact with the machine and being pulled in. Take precautionary measures.
- Abrasive machines, which do not have a completely closed guard require that the operator wears the appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. protective gloves, leather aprons, face shield, dust mask).
- Check the locking mechanism of the machine cover. Do not remove guards. Any contact with running belts can result in serious injuries.
- When mounting, observe the direction of run marked on the belt.
- After mounting a belt, ensure the guards are back in place and properly adjusted. Carry out a trial run by running the belt at full operating speed for at least 30 seconds. Check for any vibration or unusual sounds and rectify if observed.
- Make sure that work piece is properly supported and secured so that it cannot move.
- Start the machine and wait until belt has reached its full operational speed before grinding.
- Belts should only be used dry unless specified as suitable for wet grinding (please contact the manufacturer if in any doubt).
- Use the center of the belt, if possible, and grind as plane as possible. Avoid grinding with the edge of the belt and prevent damage to the belt by sharp or sharp-edged work pieces.
- Do not exert excessive pressure and prevent the belt from overheating.
- Do not open the guard or put down portable machines until the belt has come to a complete standstill.
- Check the belts in use periodically for wear, tear or damage (e.g. cracks at edges, fracturing or strong wear and tear in the joint) and replace the belts if necessary.



Federation of European  
Producers of Abrasives

[www.fepa-abrasives.org](http://www.fepa-abrasives.org)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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