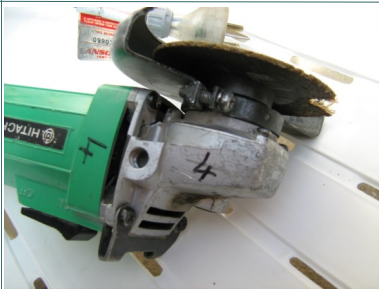




# ETU OHS REPS NEWSLETTER

## VISUAL INSPECTION



Recently an ETU member was using the Hitachi 100mm angle grinder pictured when it appears that there was a failure in the gearbox which lead to the fracturing of two of the gearbox mounting points. The member involved sought medical treatment

and luckily did not receive any long term injuries.

Although it is not known if a visual inspection would have found any indication of fractures prior to this incident, it is a timely reminder to be ever vigilant.

Australian Standard AS/NZS 3760 provides information on inspection and testing of electrical equipment.

Relocatable construction premises and low-voltage Class I (earthed conductive parts) and Class II (double insulated) fixed, transportable and portable equipment including flexible cords, cord extension sets and portable socket-outlet assemblies, shall be inspected and tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3760.

Where inspection or testing identifies equipment which fails to comply with the criteria given in this Standard, the equipment shall be—

- withdrawn from service immediately, have a label attached to it warning against further use; and
- sent for repair, disposal or destruction by an authorized repair agent or service personnel.

Experience has shown that greater than 90 % of defects are detectable by visual inspection. Therefore, equipment shall be visually inspected, physically checked and tested.

Where applicable, in-service testing and inspection shall include:

- An external inspection of the equipment and the connecting facilities (e.g. supply flexible cord);
- Protective earth continuity tests for Class I equipment, power boards and cord sets;
- Insulation testing, which may be achieved by measuring insulation resistance, or leakage current;
- Confirmation of the correct polarity of live connections in cord sets with re-wireable plugs and cord extension sockets.

The following equipment checks shall be made by visual and physical inspection of all equipment:

- Check for obvious damage or defects in the accessories, connectors, plugs or extension outlet sockets; and for discoloration that may indicate exposure to heat, chemicals or moisture;
- Check that flexible cords are effectively anchored to equipment, plugs and cord extension sockets;

**NOTE:** This inspection, including flexing and straining at points of entry and clamping points by the application of reasonable combination of push/pull and rotary movements, may detect broken strands or loose connections. It may be conveniently performed in conjunction with the continuity test.

Check for damage to flexible cords that:

- The inner cores of flexible supply cords are not exposed or twisted; and
- The external sheaths are not cut, abraded, twisted, or damaged to such an extent that the insulation of the inner cores is visible; and
- Unprotected conductors or the use of banding insulation tape are not in evidence.

**NOTE:** Connecting the plugs/sockets of extension leads together helps to confirm that the terminals have not spread.

For portable outlet devices (power boards), check that the warning indicating the maximum load to be connected to the device is intact and legible;

Check that any operating controls are in good working order i.e. that they are secure, aligned and appropriately identified;

Check that covers, guards, and the like are secured in the manner intended by the manufacturer or supplier;

Check that ventilation inlets and exhausts are unobstructed;

The pins of insulated pin plugs should be inspected for damage to the insulation of the pins, and, if fitted, the shroud on cord extension sockets.

The purpose of testing is to detect the unobservable faults not found by the visual inspection process, and forms an integral part of the inspection/testing process.

## CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

The Construction provisions (part 5.1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations of 2007 come into effect as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2008; these regulations seek to improve the level of safety in construction and are based on the National Standard for Construction Work.

The regulations include requirements for:

Principal contractors to prepare health and safety co-ordination plans for construction projects costing \$250,000.00 or more.

Employers and self-employed people to prepare safe work method statements for high-risk construction work.

Employees to be given OH&S induction training before undertaking construction work, and

Employees to be trained about site-specific risks and control measures before starting work on a construction site.

The regulations apply to all Victorian workplaces where construction work is carried out.

### **What is Construction Work?**

Construction work includes any work performed in connection with the construction, alteration, conversion, fitting out, commissioning, renovation, refurbishment, decommissioning or demolition of any building or structure, or any similar activity.

In addition employers have specific duties in relation to high-risk construction work.

### **What is High Risk Construction Work?**

High-risk construction work includes any construction work that involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 mtrs, demolition, removal or likely disturbance of asbestos, telecommunication towers, the use of temporary supports for structural alterations, confined space, a trench or shaft deeper than 1.5 mtrs, a tunnel, explosives, on or near pressurised gas mains or piping, chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines or electrical installations or services, contaminated or flammable atmosphere, tilt-up precast concrete, next to roads or railways, powered mobile plant, artificial extremes of temperature, in –

over or near liquids if there is a drowning risk and diving.

WorkSafe Victoria has produced 2 hand books that contain practical advice on how to meet the requirements of the construction regulations:

Working safely in the general construction industry, and

Working safely in the housing construction industry.

And an information sheet:

### **Is construction part of your business?**

This information sheet will assist in determining if work activities in workplaces outside the traditional construction sectors is deemed to be construction work under the regulations.

### **High Risk Work**

The regulations require a person to hold a license that is appropriate for any high risk work that they perform.

The licenses that are required include:

Boom Type EWP's

Fork Lifts

Personnel and Material Hoists

Concrete Placing Booms

Scaffolding and Rigging

A complete list of licenses can be found in SCHEDULE 3 – High Risk Work, License Classes, OH&S Regs 2007.

All Certificates of competency granted or issued under the former regulations are able to be transferred to a license to perform high risk work prior to their expiry by contacting Work Safe Victoria on Ph 1300 852 562, Fax 1800 060 7 2 7 or email [licensing@workcover.vic.gov.au](mailto:licensing@workcover.vic.gov.au) Transfer application forms are available from Australia Post.

Expiry dates for Certificates of competency granted or issued under the former regulations are relevant to their issue date, example a competency granted or issued pre 1 August 1978 expired on 31 January 2008. A competency granted or issued in June 2007 expires on 30 June 2012.

A complete list of expiry dates can be found in PART 8.2 – HIGH RISK WORK, 8.2.4 Phased expiry of certificates of competency, OH&S Regs 2007.

## 2008 Calendar

### EEIT OHS MEETING DATES

10AM –12PM

Melbourne –

Held at old ETU Office

Swanston St Carlton South

30th April

25th June

27th August

29th October

### OHS REP TRAINING

Contact Tanya—0393269377 to book into the courses below.

#### Initial 5 Day OHS REPS Course

June 11, 12, 16, 17 and 18

October 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22

#### 1 Day Refresher OHS Rep Course

Melbourne

23rd April

16th July

12th November

Country

Morwell—28th May

Portland—30th July

Shepparton—24th September

Mildura—26th November