

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 039 – HEAT GUN

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Safe Work Procedure establishes minimum requirements for safe use of electric heat guns at Illusions Australia. It applies to heating, softening, drying, paint/adhesive work and other approved applications.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Workers must understand burn, fire, electrical and fume hazards before use.

The material being heated must be known and suitable for heat-gun application.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Safety glasses where material may spit, soften or fragment.
- Heat-resistant gloves where handling heated material is required.
- Safety footwear.
- Respiratory protection only where required by the assessed material/exposure; ventilation remains a primary control.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Heat gun, lead, plug, nozzle and controls are serviceable.
- Material/coating being heated is identified and safe to heat.
- Combustible materials are removed or protected.
- Adequate ventilation is available.
- A heat-resistant resting surface/stand is available.
- The nozzle will not be directed toward people, gas cylinders, flammables or concealed combustible spaces.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Select the correct temperature and nozzle.
2. Establish ventilation and remove combustibles.
3. Hold the heat gun securely and direct airflow only at the intended work.
4. Keep the nozzle moving to avoid local overheating.
5. Maintain appropriate distance from the material.
6. Treat the nozzle and heated workpiece as hot.
7. Use the integral stand or heat-resistant surface when temporarily resting the tool.
8. Switch off after use and allow the tool to cool fully before storage.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Direct the heat gun at people or clothing.
- Leave an energised heat gun unattended.
- Use near flammable vapours, liquids or combustible dust.
- Heat unknown coatings or materials.
- Touch the nozzle during or immediately after use.
- Block air inlets.
- Use the tool as an open-flame substitute for uncontrolled heating.

7. FIRE AND HIDDEN COMBUSTIBLES

Hot airflow can ignite materials beyond the immediate visible work area.

- Check behind/within surfaces where heat may transfer.
- Maintain fire controls where required.
- Stop if scorching, smoke or burning occurs.

8. FUMES AND COATINGS

Heating paints, adhesives and plastics may release hazardous fumes.

- Identify the product before heating.
- Use ventilation/extraction.
- Do not heat suspected lead-containing or otherwise hazardous coatings without specific controls.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Stop for smoke, electrical fault, damaged lead/nozzle, abnormal overheating, fan failure or unexpected fumes.

Isolate and tag defective equipment out of service.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Switch off and unplug/isolate.
- Place on a heat-resistant surface until fully cool.
- Clean the work area and remove heat-affected waste.
- Store only when cool.
- Report defects.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate the hazard or energy source where safe to do so.
3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Material/coating identity is uncertain.
- Combustibles cannot be adequately protected.
- Ventilation is inadequate.
- Tool cooling fan or electrical components are defective.
- Unexpected smoke or fumes develop.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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