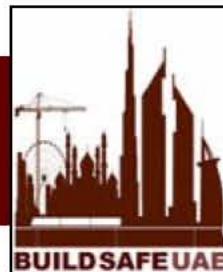
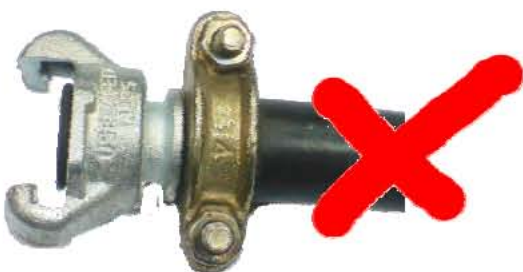


SAFETY ALERT #313



Dated: Sunday, 23rd AUGUST 2009

Title: COMPRESSED AIR CONNECTIONS



OLDER TYPE FITTINGS CAN BECOME LOOSE

NEW FITTING ATTACHED TO HOSE & COUPLER WITH WHIP CHECK EXTENDED TO FULL LENGTH

The Incident:

A recent incident has prompted the need to review use of compressed air connections. A mason was setting up a scabber for work and had connected the air tool to the compressor and was running it for approximately one minute when the air hose and compression fitting blew from the scabber striking him on the left side of his face. Safety whip checks were fitted but in this instance due to close proximity of the IP to the tool, did not prevent the impact and injury.

What Needs to be Done?

Contractors should communicate this incident to their teams and reinforce the need for operators to check all connections are in good repair, tight prior to use and regularly inspected for signs of damage.

Tools driven by compressed air should be appropriate for the task, only be used within a risk assessed safe system of work by trained, competent operatives. Suitable PPE should be worn at all times by the operative and adequate supervision in place.

The 'double clamp' fitting shown is a safer alternative to the older style fitting on the left picture above and consideration should be given to its use.

Operators to be trained on equipment (new and refresher course).