SAFETY SERVICES COMPANY

Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786

Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 485: Heat Gun

Introduction: Heat guns quickly shrink molded parts, heat-shrinkable tubing, bend and form plastics, soften resilient floor coverings and tile, strip paint, handle tough drying applications, activate adhesives, and make quick work of shrink-packaging applications. Heat guns can cause burns when not handled properly. Following are safety guidelines for safe work practices when working with heat guns:

- ***Employers*** are responsible for the safe condition of the heat guns and the protective equipment used by their employees.
- ***Read all MSDS*** for the material that the heat gun is being applied to
- ***Do not*** use defective heat guns. When not in use, place heat guns where they will not create a hazard. Make sure the heat gun is ESD safe.
- ***Do not*** use a heat gun which has an electric cord that has damaged insulation or defective parts. All heat guns need to have a 3-wire grounded cord set.
- ***Do not*** leave flexible cord lines where they may be damaged or create a hazard. All 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampre receptacle outlets on construction sites, which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure, must have approved GFCI's.

- ***Always*** set the heat gun control for the exact temperature that is needed for the job. Make sure the variable temperature controls are in proper working order and cleaned daily. Handle with caution. Heat guns can vary from 126 degrees F to 924 degrees F.
- ***A permanent*** DC motor allows high CFM airflow with a 3-position rocker switch that allows the heat gun to operate with no cool down required. Always use a heat gun that has an enclosed ceramic heating element for durability that eliminates electrical hazards.
- ***Ensure*** that the heat gun has a built-in hand and switch guard, a tamper proof temperature lock, and external replaceable carbon brushes. Heat guns that stand alone must have a non-slip adjustable stand, or a hanging loop for hands free operations.
- ***Make sure*** that the heat gun has an air/volume velocity that will not blow components around the work station.
- ***Removable*** air filters prevent debris from entering the gun and eliminates the danger of fire or explosions. Change air filters frequently.
- ***Always*** use an oil and heat resistant heat gun for assembly and repair applications in production plants and service shops.
- ***Flameless*** heat guns are to be used when applying heat shrink tubing, curing epoxy, loosening adhesives, thawing frozen pipes, softening and shaping plastics, and stripping paint. Heat shrinkable tubing heat guns are required to have heat activated specialty connectors.
- ***Thermo*** protected operation automatically prevents overheating by maintaining set temperatures. Heat guns must have high impact polymer housing, with a stainless steel heat shield, and a reinforced mica-insulated ceramic heating element, providing safety for the worker.
- ***Proper ventilation*** and ventilation systems must be in place prior to using the heat gun.
- ***Personal protective equipment*** must include gloves, particulate masks, safety goggles, full-face shields, and non-slip soled boots.

Heat blowers: Heat blowers must have a brushless shaded pole motor that enables 24-hour day-in, day-out operations for drying, heating, and shrinking on conveyor lines and shrink tunnels.

Removing lead paint: Where lead containing coatings or paints are present, ensure all employees are aware of the health risks involved and review applicable MSDS prior to removing any paint material. Ensure removers consistently wear and maintain the required protective equipment. Use a half face respirator with R-100 cartridges.

- ***When using*** a heat gun for lead paint removal, keep the heat below 750 degrees F. Do not use extreme heat or an open-flame torch. Lead-based paint heated above 950 degrees F can generate harmful toxic fumes. In extreme conditions, use a full face respirator.

Dispose of waste properly: Contaminated paint chips, sludge, and other debris can harm people and the environment if not handled properly. Put lead-based paint debris in heavy-duty plastic bags or containers and secure them. Do not dispose of them as household rubbish. Do not leave the containers at the work site. For more information about waste disposal, contact your area DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality).

Finish up: Shower and change into clean clothes and shoes before you leave the work area. Put the clothes in a heavy-duty plastic bag and wash them separately from other laundry. Do not use solvents to remove paint that has been spilled on any part of the body. Use nonhazardous cleaning agents. Keep a first aid kit nearby, that has been stocked with all the necessary medical supplies, as approved by OSHA.

Conclusion: All employees need to be trained in the safe use of the different types of heat guns and heat blowers they will use, as well as the hazards of the material to be heated. Utilize these safety guidelines for the safe operation of heat guns.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Employee Signatures: ***(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)***

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Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.