Talk No: 21	Title: USE OF CARTRIDGE OPERATED TOOLS

Introduction: Cartridge operated tools are potentially lethal if misused and should always be treated with respect.

Main points:

- Cartridge operated tools, including rivet guns, should only be used by properly trained persons (those issued with a certificate of authority).
- Read and understand the manufacturer's instructions prior to use and comply with them at all times.
- Before handling a gun, and before putting it away, ensure it is not loaded.

Discussion points:

- Always load with barrel pointing in safe direction (away from you and not at anyone else).
- Never walk around on site with a loaded tool/gun.
- Never place your hand over the end of the barrel.
- Ensure cartridges are suitable for material being fired into (no too powerful) – consider a test fire.
- Beware of voids in material being fired into and allow at least 75mm (3") from edges of concrete or brickwork.
- Always hold gun/tool at right angles to material being fired into – ensure splinter guard is resting on surface.
- Always wear suitable PPE (eye protection and ear defenders as a minimum).
- In the event of a misfire wait one minute and try again. If still a misfire, then wait a further minute prior to unloading.
- Keep guns/tools well maintained and clean – never leave a gun loaded.
- Cartridges are explosives and must be strictly controlled (kept under lock and key, restrict issue, account for fired cartridges and ensure unfired cartridges are returned).

IT'S TOO LATE TO PLAN FOR SAFETY AFTER THE ACCIDENT HAS HAPPENED!

Notes:

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