



# Angle grinder self-assessment tool

Angle grinders are dangerous power tools and can cause death and serious injuries including amputations if they are used incorrectly. When using these power tools, always:



Wear safety glasses and dust mask



Tie up long and loose hair



Wear protective footwear with substantial uppers



Wear close fitting protective clothing



Take off rings and jewellery



Wear hearing protection

## Before using an angle grinder check:

- Is the grinder the right tool for the job?
- The electrical lead is in good condition and has a current test and tag.
- The building has a residual current device (safety switch) installed.
- You are using the grinder in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- The power tool has the correct guard affixed as supplied by the manufacturer.
- You are using the flange and nut assembly provided by the manufacturer.
- If accessories need to be fitted or changed, you followed the manufacturer's instructions.
- You are using the correct disc for the task and the material being cut or ground.
- You are using the right sized accessory for the size of the power tool.
- The rated speed of the accessory is at least equal to the maximum speed marked on the power tool.
- Accessories are not cracked or damaged.
- The electrical lead stays behind you while cutting or grinding.
- You are wearing appropriate PPE, including safety glasses ('medium impact' glasses as a minimum), face shield if required, dust mask, hearing protection, gloves and an apron to protect against sparks.
- The power tool runs smoothly, with no vibration or wobbling. (Let it run until it reaches full operation speed).
- You have set up an exclusion zone around the area of work.
- Loose clothing is not worn, jewellery is removed and hair is tied back.
- If you are using an air tool, the vents are clean.

## During cutting or grinding activity:

- Check the work piece is secure and supported.
- Check the work will be done with sparks travelling away from you.
- Check the work will not be done near flammable materials.
- Check the accessory is not making contact with the work piece before turning on.
- Use two hands to hold the power tool, one on the auxiliary handle (if provided) and the other on the body.
- Operate the power tool at level with your waist. Avoid reaching up and away from your body.
- Do not lock in the hold to run trigger.
- Do not run the power tool while carrying it at your side.
- Do not use accessories that require liquid coolants (using water or other liquid coolants may result in electrocution or shock).
- Remove burrs from the workpiece.
- Turn off and unplug the grinder when changing or cleaning discs.
- Use the correct tool to change discs.

## After completing task:

- Ensure the disc (or accessory) has stopped rotating before putting the power tool down.
- Do not touch the work piece immediately after working on it (it may be hot and could burn your skin).
- Check electrical leads for damage.
- Check accessories for damage and replace if necessary.
- Store the power tool in a safe place.
- Clean the work area of residue or waste.

