

Risks associated with pneumatic hose couplings

NB: Further to publishing Safety Alert 55 in March 2013, we provide additional information about correct fitting of extended hose restraints. The hose restraint images are courtesy of Dixon Group Europe Ltd.

What happened?

NOPSEMA OHS regulatory specialists have noticed that pressurised air hose couplings have been incorrectly assembled on some facilities. During one inspection, the inspector found that a coupling had been assembled without a safety pin to secure the fitting and without extending the hose restraint.

Safety Pins

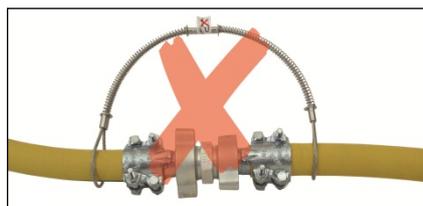


Air hose coupling **WITHOUT** safety pins

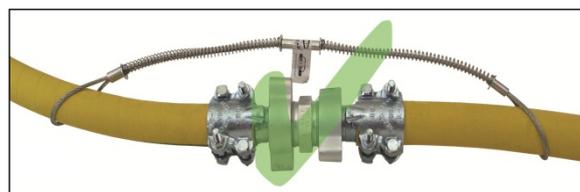


Air hose coupling **WITH** safety pins

Hose Restraints



Air hose coupling **WITHOUT** extended hose restraint



Air hose coupling **WITH** extended hose restraint

What could go wrong?

Neglecting to fit coupled air hoses with safety clips and/or hose restraints can increase the risk of a high velocity impact incident.

Air hose coupling failures reported overseas have caused a number of serious incidents resulting in injury or death (see <https://www.imca-int.com/alert/219/fatality-injury-from-an-air-hose/>).

Incorrect assembly of air hoses presents a risk not only to the person operating the equipment, but to others in the vicinity.

Key lessons

Equipment operators and supervisors of work activities should review their practices for the use of pneumatic (air-powered) tools, hoses and couplings. It is important that members of the workforce who use this equipment, and those responsible for their supervision, have had the relevant training before work commences.

Schedule 3 to the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* places duties on the operator of a facility to take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that:

- *the facility is safe and without risk to the health of any person at or near the facility; and*
- *all work and other activities carried out on the facility are carried out in a manner that is safe and without risk to the health of any person at or near the facility.*

Contact

For further information email alerts@nopsema.gov.au and quote Safety Alert 55.