

# SECTION 1 – SAFETY PRECAUTIONS - READ BEFORE USING

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**⚠** Protect yourself and others from injury — read, follow, and save these important safety precautions and operating instructions.

## 1-1. Symbol Usage



**DANGER!** – Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. The possible hazards are shown in the adjoining symbols or explained in the text.



Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury. The possible hazards are shown in the adjoining symbols or explained in the text.

**NOTICE** – Indicates statements not related to personal injury.

## 1-2. Plasma Arc Cutting Hazards



The symbols shown below are used throughout this manual to call attention to and identify possible hazards. When you see the symbol, watch out, and follow the related instructions to avoid the hazard. The safety information given below is only a summary of the more complete safety information found in the Safety Standards listed in Section 1-5. Read and follow all Safety Standards.



Only qualified persons should install, operate, maintain, and repair this equipment. A qualified person is defined as one who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training and experience, has successfully demonstrated ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project and has received safety training to recognize and avoid the hazards involved.



During operation, keep everybody, especially children, away.



### CUTTING can cause fire or explosion.

Hot metal and sparks blow out from the cutting arc. The flying sparks and hot metal, hot workpiece, and hot equipment can cause fires and burns. Check and be sure the area is safe before doing any cutting.

- Remove all flammables within 35 ft (10.7 m) of the cutting arc. If this is not possible, tightly cover them with approved covers.
- Do not cut where flying sparks can strike flammable material.
- Protect yourself and others from flying sparks and hot metal.
- Be alert that sparks and hot materials from cutting can easily go through small cracks and openings to adjacent areas.
- Watch for fire, and keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Be aware that cutting on a ceiling, floor, bulkhead, or partition can cause fire on the hidden side.
- Do not cut or weld on tire rims or wheels. Tires can explode if heated. Repaired rims and wheels can fail. See OSHA 29 CFR 1910.177 listed in Safety Standards.
- Do not cut on containers that have held combustibles, or on closed containers such as tanks, drums, or pipes unless they are properly prepared according to AWS F4.1 and AWS A6.0 (see Safety Standards).
- Connect work cable to the work as close to the cutting area as practical to prevent cutting current from traveling long, possibly unknown paths and causing electric shock, sparks, and fire hazards.
- Do not use plasma cutter to thaw frozen pipes.
- Never cut containers with potentially flammable materials inside – they must be emptied and properly cleaned first.
- Do not cut where the atmosphere can contain flammable dust, gas, or liquid vapors (such as gasoline).
- Do not cut pressurized cylinders, pipes, or vessels.
- Wear body protection made from durable, flame-resistant material (leather, heavy cotton, wool). Body protection includes oil-free clothing such as leather gloves, heavy shirt, cuffless trousers, high shoes, and a cap.
- Do not locate unit on or over combustible surfaces.
- Remove any combustibles, such as a butane lighter or matches, from your person before doing any cutting.

 Indicates special instructions.



This group of symbols means Warning! Watch Out! ELECTRIC SHOCK, MOVING PARTS, and HOT PARTS hazards. Consult symbols and related instructions below for necessary actions to avoid the hazards.

- After completion of work, inspect area to ensure it is free of sparks, glowing embers, and flames.
- Use only correct fuses or circuit breakers. Do not oversize or bypass them.
- Follow requirements in OSHA 1910.252 (a) (2) (iv) and NFPA 51B for hot work and have a fire watcher and extinguisher nearby.



### ELECTRIC SHOCK can kill.

Touching live electrical parts can cause fatal shocks or severe burns. The torch and work circuit are electrically live whenever the output is on. The input power circuit and machine internal circuits are also live when power is on. Plasma arc cutting requires

higher voltages than welding to start and maintain the arc (200 to 400 volts dc are common), but can also use torches designed with safety interlock systems which turn off the machine when the shield cup is loosened or if tip touches electrode inside the nozzle. Incorrectly installed or improperly grounded equipment is a hazard.

- Do not touch live electrical parts.
- Wear dry, hole-free insulating gloves and body protection.
- Insulate yourself from work and ground using dry insulating mats or covers big enough to prevent any physical contact with the work or ground.
- Do not touch torch parts if in contact with the work or ground.
- Turn off power before checking, cleaning, or changing torch parts.
- Disconnect input power before installing or servicing this equipment. Lockout/tagout input power according to OSHA CFR 1910.147 (see Safety Standards).
- Properly install, ground, and operate this equipment according to its Owner's Manual and national, state, and local codes.
- Check and be sure that input power cord ground wire is properly connected to ground terminal in disconnect box or that cord plug is connected to a properly grounded receptacle outlet – always verify the supply ground.
- When making input connections, attach proper grounding conductor first.
- Keep cords dry, free of oil and grease, and protected from hot metal and sparks.
- Frequently inspect input power cord and ground conductor for damage or bare wiring – replace immediately if damaged – bare wiring can kill.
- Turn off all equipment when not in use.
- Do not use worn, damaged, undersized, or repaired cables.
- Do not wrap torch cable around your body.
- Ground the workpiece to a good electrical (earth) ground if required by codes.
- Use only well-maintained equipment. Repair or replace damaged parts at once.
- Wear a safety harness if working above floor level.
- Keep all panels and covers securely in place.
- Do not bypass or try to defeat the safety interlock systems.
- Use only torch(es) specified in Owner's Manual.
- Keep away from torch tip and pilot arc when trigger is pressed.
- Clamp work cable with good metal-to-metal contact to workpiece (not piece that will fall away) or worktable as near the cut as practical.
- Insulate work clamp when not connected to workpiece to prevent contact with any metal object.



### ELECTRIC SHOCK can kill.

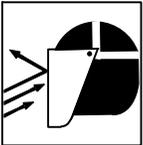
**SIGNIFICANT DC VOLTAGE exists in inverter power sources AFTER the removal of input power.**

- Turn off unit, disconnect input power, and discharge input capacitors according to instructions in Manual before touching any parts.



### EXPLODING PARTS can injure.

- On inverter power sources, failed parts can explode or cause other parts to explode when power is applied. Always wear a face shield and long sleeves when servicing inverters.



### FLYING SPARKS can injure.

Sparks and hot metal blow out from the cutting arc. Chipping and grinding cause flying metal.

- Wear approved face shield or safety goggles with side shields.
- Wear proper body protection to protect skin.
- Wear flame-resistant ear plugs or ear muffs to prevent sparks from entering ears.



### ARC RAYS can burn eyes and skin.

Arc rays from the cutting process produce intense visible and invisible (ultraviolet and infrared) rays that can burn eyes and skin.

- Wear face protection (helmet or shield) with a proper shade of filter lenses to protect your face and eyes from arc rays and sparks when cutting or watching. ANSI Z49.1 (see Safety Standards) suggests a No. 9 shade (with No. 8 as minimum) for all cutting currents less than 300 amperes. Z49.1 adds that lighter filter shades can be used when the arc is hidden by the workpiece. As this is normally the case with low current cutting, the shades suggested in Table 1 are provided for the operator's convenience.
- Wear approved safety glasses with side shields under your helmet or shield.
- Use protective screens or barriers to protect others from flash, glare and sparks; warn others not to watch the arc.
- Wear body protection made from durable, flame-resistant material (leather, heavy cotton, wool). Body protection includes oil-free clothing such as leather gloves, heavy shirt, cuffless trousers, high shoes, and a cap.

**Table 1. Eye Protection For Plasma Arc Cutting**

Current Level In Amperes	Minimum Shade Number	
Below 20		#4
20 – 40		#5
40 – 60		#6
60 – 100		#8



### NOISE can damage hearing.

Prolonged noise from some cutting applications can damage hearing if levels exceed limits specified by OSHA (see Safety Standards).

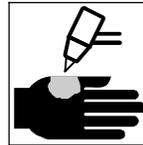
- Use approved ear plugs or ear muffs if noise level is high.
- Warn others nearby about noise hazard.



### FUMES AND GASES can be hazardous.

Cutting produces fumes and gases. Breathing these fumes and gases can be hazardous to your health.

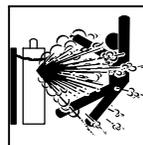
- Keep your head out of the fumes. Do not breathe the fumes.
- Ventilate the work area and/or use local forced ventilation at the arc to remove welding fumes and gases. The recommended way to determine adequate ventilation is to sample for the composition and quantity of fumes and gases to which personnel are exposed.
- If ventilation is poor, wear an approved air-supplied respirator.
- Read and understand the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and the manufacturer's instructions for adhesives, coatings, cleaners, consumables, coolants, degreasers, fluxes, and metals.
- Work in a confined space only if it is well ventilated, or while wearing an air-supplied respirator. Fumes from cutting and oxygen depletion can alter air quality causing injury or death. Be sure the breathing air is safe.
- Do not cut in locations near degreasing, cleaning, or spraying operations. The heat and rays of the arc can react with vapors to form highly toxic and irritating gases.
- Do not cut on coated metals, such as galvanized, lead, or cadmium plated steel, unless the coating is removed from the cutting area, the area is well ventilated, and while wearing an air-supplied respirator. The coatings and any metals containing these elements can give off toxic fumes when cut.
- Do not cut containers with toxic or reactive materials inside or containers that have held toxic or reactive materials – they must be emptied and properly cleaned first.



### PLASMA ARC can injure.

The heat from the plasma arc can cause serious burns. The force of the arc adds greatly to the burn hazard. The intensely hot and powerful arc can quickly cut through gloves and tissue.

- Keep away from the torch tip.
- Do not grip material near the cutting path.
- The pilot arc can cause burns – keep away from torch tip when trigger is pressed.
- Wear body protection made from durable, flame-resistant material (leather, heavy cotton, wool). Body protection includes oil-free clothing such as leather gloves, heavy shirt, cuffless trousers, high shoes, and a cap.
- Point torch away from your body and toward work when pressing the torch trigger – pilot arc comes on immediately.
- Turn off power source and disconnect input power before disassembling torch or changing torch parts.
- Use only torch(es) specified in the Owner's Manual.



### CYLINDERS can explode if damaged.

Compressed gas cylinders contain gas under high pressure. If damaged, a cylinder can explode. Since gas cylinders are normally part of metalworking processes, be sure to treat them carefully.

- Protect compressed gas cylinders from excessive heat, mechanical shocks, physical damage, slag, open flame, sparks, and arcs.
- Install and secure cylinders in an upright position by chaining them to a stationary support or equipment cylinder rack to prevent falling or tipping.
- Keep cylinders away from any cutting or other electrical circuits.
- Never allow electrical contact between a plasma arc torch and a cylinder.
- Never cut on a pressurized cylinder – explosion will result.
- Use only correct compressed gas cylinders, regulators, hoses, and fittings designed for the specific application; maintain them and associated parts in good condition.
- Turn face away from valve outlet when opening cylinder valve. Do not stand in front of or behind the regulator when opening the valve.
- Keep protective cap in place over valve except when cylinder is in use or connected for use.
- Use the proper equipment, correct procedures, and sufficient number of persons to lift, move, and transport cylinders.
- Read and follow instructions on compressed gas cylinders, associated equipment, and Compressed Gas Association (CGA) publication P-1 listed in Safety Standards.

## 1-3. Additional Symbols For Installation, Operation, And Maintenance



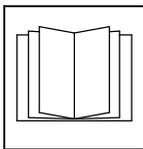
### HOT PARTS can burn.

- Do not touch hot parts bare handed.
- Allow cooling period before working on equipment.
- To handle hot parts, use proper tools and/or wear heavy, insulated welding gloves and clothing to prevent burns.



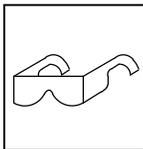
### MOVING PARTS can injure.

- Keep away from moving parts such as fans.
- Keep all doors, panels, covers, and guards closed and securely in place.
- Have only qualified persons remove doors, panels, covers, or guards for maintenance and troubleshooting as necessary.
- Reinstall doors, panels, covers, or guards when maintenance is finished and before reconnecting input power.



### READ INSTRUCTIONS.

- Read and follow all labels and the Owner's Manual carefully before installing, operating, or servicing unit. Read the safety information at the beginning of the manual and in each section.
- Use only genuine replacement parts from the manufacturer.
- Perform installation, maintenance, and service according to the Owner's Manuals, industry standards, and national, state, and local codes.



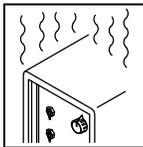
### FLYING METAL or DIRT can injure eyes.

- Wear safety glasses with side shields or wear face shield.



### ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS (EMF) can affect Implanted Medical Devices.

- Wearers of Pacemakers and other Implanted Medical Devices should keep away.
- Implanted Medical Device wearers should consult their doctor and the device manufacturer before going near arc welding, spot welding, gouging, plasma arc cutting, or induction heating operations.



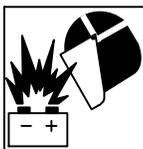
### OVERUSE can cause OVERHEATING.

- Allow cooling period; follow rated duty cycle.
- Reduce amperage (thickness) or reduce duty cycle before starting to cut again.



### EXPLODING HYDROGEN hazard.

- When cutting aluminum underwater or with the water touching the underside of the aluminum, free hydrogen gas can collect under the work-piece.
- See your cutting engineer and water table instructions for help.



### BATTERY EXPLOSION can injure.

- Do not use plasma cutter to charge batteries or jump start vehicles unless it has a battery charging feature designed for this purpose.



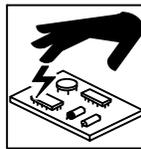
### FALLING EQUIPMENT can injure.

- Use lifting eye to lift unit only, NOT running gear, gas cylinders, or any other accessories.
- Use correct procedures and equipment of adequate capacity to lift and support unit.
- If using lift forks to move unit, be sure forks are long enough to extend beyond opposite side of unit.
- Keep equipment (cables and cords) away from moving vehicles when working from an aerial location.
- Follow the guidelines in the Applications Manual for the Revised NIOSH Lifting Equation (Publication No. 94-110) when manually lifting heavy parts or equipment.



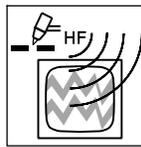
### FIRE OR EXPLOSION hazard.

- Do not locate unit on, over, or near combustible surfaces.
- Do not install unit near flammables.
- Do not overload building wiring – be sure power supply system is properly sized, rated, and protected to handle this unit.



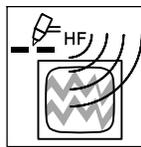
### STATIC (ESD) can damage PC boards.

- Put on grounded wrist strap BEFORE handling boards or parts.
- Use proper static-proof bags and boxes to store, move, or ship PC boards.



### H.F. RADIATION can cause interference.

- High frequency (H.F.) can interfere with radio navigation, safety services, computers, and communications equipment.
- Have only qualified persons familiar with electronic equipment perform this installation.
- The user is responsible for having a qualified electrician promptly correct any interference problem resulting from the installation.
- If notified by the FCC about interference, stop using the equipment at once.
- Have the installation regularly checked and maintained.
- Keep high-frequency source doors and panels tightly shut, keep spark gaps at correct setting, and use grounding and shielding to minimize the possibility of interference.



### ARC CUTTING can cause interference.

- Electromagnetic energy can interfere with sensitive electronic equipment such as computers and computer-driven equipment such as robots.
- To reduce possible interference, keep cables as short as possible, close together, and down low, such as on the floor.
- Locate cutting operation 100 meters from any sensitive electronic equipment.
- Be sure this cutting power source is installed and grounded according to this manual.
- If interference still occurs, the user must take extra measures such as moving the machine, using shielded cables, using line filters, or shielding the work area.

## 1-4. California Proposition 65 Warnings

**⚠ WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including lead, which are known to the state of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

For more information, go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov)

## 1-5. Principal Safety Standards

*Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*, ANSI Standard Z49.1, is available as a free download from the American Welding Society at <http://www.aws.org> or purchased from Global Engineering Documents (phone: 1-877-413-5184, website: [www.global.ihs.com](http://www.global.ihs.com)).

*Recommended Practices for Plasma Arc Cutting and Gouging*, American Welding Society Standard AWS C5.2, from Global Engineering Documents (phone: 1-877-413-5184, website: [www.global.ihs.com](http://www.global.ihs.com)).

*Safe Practices for the Preparation of Containers and Piping for Welding and Cutting*, American Welding Society Standard AWS F4.1, from Global Engineering Documents (phone: 1-877-413-5184, website: [www.global.ihs.com](http://www.global.ihs.com)).

*Safe Practices for Welding and Cutting Containers that have Held Combustibles*, American Welding Society Standard AWS A6.0, from Global Engineering Documents (phone: 1-877-413-5184, website: [www.global.ihs.com](http://www.global.ihs.com)).

*National Electrical Code*, NFPA Standard 70, from National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA 02169 (phone: 1-800-344-3555, website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org)).

*Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Cylinders*, CGA Pamphlet P-1, from Compressed Gas Association, 14501 George Carter Way, Suite 103, Chantilly, VA 20151 (phone: 703-788-2700, website: [www.cganet.com](http://www.cganet.com)).

*Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*, CSA Standard W117.2, from Canadian Standards Association, Standards Sales, 5060 Spectrum Way, Suite 100, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4W 5N5 (phone: 800-463-6727, website: [www.csagroup.org](http://www.csagroup.org)).

*Safe Practice For Occupational And Educational Eye And Face Protection*, ANSI Standard Z87.1, from American National Standards Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036 (phone: 212-642-4900, website: [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)).

*Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work*, NFPA Standard 51B, from National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA 02169 (phone: 1-800-344-3555, website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)).

OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1910.177 Subpart N, Part 1910 Subpart Q, and Part 1926, Subpart J, from U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954 (phone: 1-866-512-1800) (there are 10 OSHA Regional Offices—phone for Region 5, Chicago, is 312-353-2220, website: [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)).

*Applications Manual for the Revised NIOSH Lifting Equation*, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 1600 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027 (phone: 1-800-232-4636, website: [www.cdc.gov/NIOSH](http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH)).

## 1-6. EMF Information

Electric current flowing through any conductor causes localized electric and magnetic fields (EMF). The current from arc welding (and allied processes including spot welding, gouging, plasma arc cutting, and induction heating operations) creates an EMF field around the welding circuit. EMF fields can interfere with some medical implants, e.g. pacemakers. Protective measures for persons wearing medical implants have to be taken. For example, restrict access for passers-by or conduct individual risk assessment for welders. All welders should use the following procedures in order to minimize exposure to EMF fields from the welding circuit:

1. Keep cables close together by twisting or taping them, or using a cable cover.
2. Do not place your body between welding cables. Arrange cables to one side and away from the operator.
3. Do not coil or drape cables around your body.

4. Keep head and trunk as far away from the equipment in the welding circuit as possible.
5. Connect work clamp to workpiece as close to the weld as possible.
6. Do not work next to, sit or lean on the welding power source.
7. Do not weld whilst carrying the welding power source or wire feeder.

### About Implanted Medical Devices:

Implanted Medical Device wearers should consult their doctor and the device manufacturer before performing or going near arc welding, spot welding, gouging, plasma arc cutting, or induction heating operations. If cleared by your doctor, then following the above procedures is recommended.