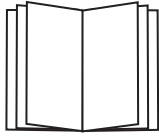


# **WARNING!**



**Failure to follow operating instructions could result in personal injury or damage to equipment.**

## ***Safety and Compliance Manual***

806690 Revision 7 – April 2020

English

**Safety**



### **RECOGNIZE SAFETY INFORMATION**

The symbols shown in this section are used to identify potential hazards. When you see a safety symbol in this manual or on your machine, understand the potential for personal injury, and follow the related instructions to avoid the hazard.



### **FOLLOW SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

Carefully read all safety messages in this manual and safety labels on your machine.

- Keep the safety labels on your machine in good condition. Replace missing or damaged labels immediately.
- Learn how to operate the machine and how to use the controls properly. Do not let anyone operate it without instruction.
- Keep your machine in proper working condition. Unauthorized modifications to the machine may affect safety and machine service life.

### **DANGER WARNING CAUTION**

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines are used for safety signal words and symbols. The signal word DANGER or WARNING is used with a safety symbol. DANGER identifies the most serious hazards.

- DANGER and WARNING safety labels are located on your machine near specific hazards.
- DANGER safety messages precede related instructions in the manual that will result in serious injury or death if not followed correctly.
- WARNING safety messages precede related instructions in this manual that may result in injury or death if not followed correctly.
- CAUTION safety messages precede related instructions in this manual that may result in minor injury or damage to equipment if not followed correctly.

### **INSPECT EQUIPMENT BEFORE USING**

All cutting equipment must be inspected as required to make sure it is in safe operating condition. When found to be incapable of reliable and safe operation, the equipment must be repaired by qualified personnel prior to its next use or withdrawn from service.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

The person or entity responsible for the safety of the workplace must:

- Make sure that operators and their supervisors are trained in the safe use of their equipment, the safe use of the process, and emergency procedures.
- Make sure that all hazards and safety precautions identified herein are communicated to and understood by workers before the start of work.
- Designate approved cutting areas and establish procedures for safe cutting.
- Be responsible for authorizing cutting operations in areas not specifically designed or approved for such processes.
- Make sure that only approved equipment, such as torches and personal protective equipment, are used.
- Select contractors who provide trained and qualified personnel, and who have awareness of the risks involved, to do cutting.
- Tell contractors about flammable materials or hazardous conditions that are specific to the site, or hazardous conditions that they may not be aware of.
- Make sure that the quality and quantity of air for ventilation is such that personnel exposures to hazardous contaminants are below the allowable limits.
- Make sure that ventilation in confined spaces is sufficient to allow adequate oxygen for life support, to prevent accumulation of asphyxiants or flammable explosive mixtures, to prevent oxygen-enriched atmospheres, and to keep airborne contaminants in breathing atmospheres below allowable limits.



## A PLASMA ARC CAN DAMAGE FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes may be damaged or can burst if you attempt to thaw them with a plasma torch.



## STATIC ELECTRICITY CAN DAMAGE PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS

Use proper precautions when handling printed circuit boards:

- Store printed circuit boards in anti-static containers.
- Wear a grounded wrist strap when handling printed circuit boards.



## GROUNDING SAFETY

**Work lead** Attach the work lead securely to the workpiece or the cutting table with good metal-to-metal contact. Do not connect it to the piece that will fall away when the cut is complete.

**Cutting table** Connect the cutting table to an earth ground, in accordance with appropriate national and local electrical regulations.

### Input power

- Make sure to connect the power cord ground wire to the ground in the disconnect box.
- If installation of the plasma system involves connecting the power cord to the power supply, make sure to connect the power cord ground wire properly.
- Place the power cord's ground wire on the stud first, then place any other ground wires on top of the power cord ground. Tighten the retaining nut.
- Tighten all electrical connections to avoid excessive heating.

## ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- Only trained and authorized personnel may open this equipment.
- If the equipment is permanently connected, turn it off, and lock out/tag out power before the enclosure is opened.
- If power is supplied to the equipment with a cord, unplug the unit before the enclosure is opened.
- Lockable disconnects or lockable plug covers must be provided by others.
- Wait 5 minutes after removal of power before entering the enclosure to allow stored energy to discharge.
- If the equipment must have power when the enclosure is open for servicing, arc flash explosion hazards may exist. Follow **all** local requirements (NFPA 70E in the USA) for safe work practices and for personal protective equipment when servicing energized equipment.
- Prior to operating the equipment after moving, opening, or servicing, make sure to close the enclosure and make sure that there is proper earth ground continuity to the enclosure.
- Always follow these instructions for disconnecting power before inspecting or changing torch consumable parts.



## ELECTRIC SHOCK CAN KILL

Touching live electrical parts can cause a fatal shock or severe burn.

- Operating the plasma system completes an electrical circuit between the torch and the workpiece. The workpiece and anything touching the workpiece are part of the electrical circuit.
- In machine torch applications, never touch the torch body, workpiece, or water in a water table when the plasma system is operating.

### Electric shock prevention

**All plasma systems use high voltage in the cutting process (200 to 400 VDC are common). Take the following precautions when operating this system:**

- Wear insulated gloves and boots, and keep your body and clothing dry.
- Do not stand, sit, or lie on – or touch – any wet surface when using the plasma system.
- Insulate yourself from the work and ground using dry insulating mats or covers big enough to prevent any physical contact with the work or ground. If you must cut in or near a damp area, use extreme caution.
- Provide a disconnect switch close to the power supply with properly sized fuses. This switch allows the operator to turn off the power supply quickly in an emergency situation.
- When using a water table, make sure that it is correctly connected to an earth ground.
- Install and ground this equipment according to the instruction manual and in accordance with national and local regulations.
- Inspect the input power cord frequently for damage or cracking of the cover. Replace a damaged power cord immediately.  
**Bare wiring can kill.**
- Inspect and replace any worn or damaged torch leads.
- Do not pick up the workpiece, including the waste cutoff, while you cut. Leave the workpiece in place or on the workbench with the work lead attached during the cutting process.
- Before checking, cleaning, or changing torch parts, disconnect the main power or unplug the power supply.
- Never bypass or shortcut the safety interlocks.
- Before removing any power supply or system enclosure cover, disconnect electrical input power. Wait 5 minutes after disconnecting the main power to allow capacitors to discharge.
- Never operate the plasma system unless the power supply covers are in place. Exposed power supply connections present a severe electrical hazard.
- When making input connections, attach a proper grounding conductor first.
- Each plasma system is designed to be used only with specific torches. Do not substitute other torches, which could overheat and present a safety hazard.



## CUTTING CAN CAUSE FIRE OR EXPLOSION

### Fire prevention

- Make sure the cutting area is safe before doing any cutting. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Remove all flammables within 35 feet (10 m) of the cutting area.
- Quench hot metal or allow it to cool before handling or before letting it touch combustible materials.
- Never cut containers with potentially flammable materials inside – they must be emptied and properly cleaned first.
- Ventilate potentially flammable atmospheres before cutting.
- When cutting with oxygen as the plasma gas, an exhaust ventilation system is required.

### Explosion prevention

- Do not use the plasma system if explosive dust or vapors may be present.
- Do not cut pressurized cylinders, pipes, or any closed containers.
- Do not cut containers that have held combustible materials.



### WARNING

Explosion Hazard

Hydrogen Detonation with Aluminum Cutting

When you use a plasma torch to cut aluminum alloys under water or on a water table, a chemical reaction between the water and the workpiece, parts, fine particles, or molten aluminum droplets generates significantly more hydrogen gas than occurs with other metals. This hydrogen gas may get trapped under the workpiece. If exposed to oxygen or air, the plasma arc or a spark from any source can ignite this trapped hydrogen gas, causing an explosion that may result in death, personal injury, loss of property, or equipment damage.

Consult with the table manufacturer and other experts prior to cutting aluminum to implement a risk assessment and mitigation plan that eliminates the risk of detonation by preventing hydrogen accumulation.



### WARNING

Explosion Hazard  
Argon-Hydrogen and Methane



### WARNING

Explosion Hazard  
Underwater Cutting with Fuel Gases  
Containing Hydrogen

- Do not cut underwater with fuel gases containing hydrogen.
- Cutting underwater with fuel gases containing hydrogen can result in an explosive condition that can detonate during plasma cutting operations.



Also, make sure that the water table, fume extraction (ventilation), and other parts of the cutting system have been designed with aluminum cutting in mind.

**Do not cut aluminum alloys underwater or on a water table unless you can prevent the accumulation of hydrogen gas.**

**Note:** With proper mitigation, most aluminum alloys can be plasma cut on a water table. An exception is aluminum-lithium alloys. **Never cut aluminum-lithium alloys in the presence of water.** Contact your aluminum supplier for additional safety information regarding hazards associated with aluminum-lithium alloys.



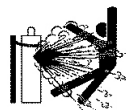
## MACHINE MOTION CAN CAUSE INJURY

When an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) makes a cutting system by combining Hypertherm equipment with other equipment, the end-use customer and the OEM are responsible for providing protection against the hazardous moving parts of this cutting system. However, we advise the following to prevent operator injury and equipment damage:

- Read and follow the instruction manual provided by the OEM.
- Maintain a restricted-access area larger than the maximum movement range of the cutting system's moving parts.
- Where there is a risk of collision, do not allow personnel or equipment near the cutting system's moving parts.
- Avoid accidental contact with the CNC touchscreen or joystick. Accidental contact can activate commands and result in unintended motion.
- Do not service or clean the machinery during operation.
- If servicing is required, enable the safety interlock or disconnect and lock out/tag out power to disable the motors and prevent motion.
- Allow only qualified personnel to operate, maintain, and service the machinery.

## COMPRESSED GAS EQUIPMENT SAFETY

- Never lubricate cylinder valves or regulators with oil or grease.
- Use only correct gas cylinders, regulators, hoses, and fittings designed for the specific application.
- Maintain all compressed gas equipment and associated parts in good condition.
- Label and color-code all gas hoses to identify the type of gas in each hose. Consult applicable national and local regulations.



## GAS CYLINDERS CAN EXPLODE IF DAMAGED

Gas cylinders contain gas under high pressure. If damaged, a cylinder can explode.

- Handle and use compressed gas cylinders in accordance with applicable national and local regulations.
- Never use a cylinder that is not upright and secured in place.
- Keep the protective cap in place over the valve except when the cylinder is in use or connected for use.
- Never allow electrical contact between the plasma arc and a cylinder.
- Never expose cylinders to excessive heat, sparks, slag, or open flame.
- Never use a hammer, wrench, or other tool to open a stuck cylinder valve.



## TOXIC FUMES CAN CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH

The plasma arc by itself is the heat source used for cutting. Accordingly, although the plasma arc has not been identified as a source of toxic fumes, the material being cut can be a source of toxic fumes or gases that deplete oxygen.

The fumes produced vary depending on the metal that is cut. Metals that may release toxic fumes include, but are not limited to, stainless steel, carbon steel, zinc (galvanized), and copper.

In some cases, the metal may be coated with a substance that could release toxic fumes. Toxic coatings include, but are not limited to, lead (in some paints), cadmium (in some paints and fillers), and beryllium.

The gases produced by plasma cutting vary based on the material to be cut and the method of cutting, but may include ozone, oxides of nitrogen, hexavalent chromium, hydrogen, and other substances if such are contained in or released by the material being cut.

Caution should be taken to minimize exposure to fumes produced by any industrial process. Depending on the chemical composition and concentration of the fumes (as well as other factors, such as ventilation), there may be a risk of physical illness, such as birth defects or cancer.

It is the responsibility of the equipment and site owner to test the air quality in the cutting area and to make sure that the air quality in the workplace meets all local and national standards and regulations.

The air quality level in any relevant workplace depends on site-specific variables such as:

- Table design (wet, dry, underwater).
- Material composition, surface finish, and composition of coatings.
- Volume of material removed.
- Duration of cutting or gouging.
- Size, air volume, ventilation, and filtration of the workplace.
- Personal protective equipment.
- Number of welding and cutting systems in operation.
- Other workplace processes that may produce fumes.

If the workplace must conform to national or local regulations, only monitoring or testing done at the site can determine whether the workplace is above or below allowable levels.

To reduce the risk of exposure to fumes:

- Remove all coatings and solvents from the metal before cutting.
- Use local exhaust ventilation to remove fumes from the air.
- Do not inhale fumes. Wear an air-supplied respirator when cutting any metal coated with, containing, or suspected to contain toxic elements.
- Make sure that those using welding or cutting equipment, as well as air-supplied respiration devices, are qualified and trained in the proper use of such equipment.
- Never cut containers with potentially toxic materials inside. Empty and properly clean the container first.
- Monitor or test the air quality at the site as needed.
- Consult with a local expert to implement a site plan to make sure air quality is safe.



## A PLASMA ARC CAN CAUSE INJURY AND BURNS

### Instant-on torches

A plasma arc ignites immediately when the torch switch is activated.

The plasma arc will cut quickly through gloves and skin.

- Keep away from the torch tip.
- Do not hold metal near the cutting path.
- Never point the torch toward yourself or others.



## ARC RAYS CAN BURN EYES AND SKIN

**Eye protection** Plasma arc rays produce intense visible and invisible (ultraviolet and infrared) rays that can burn eyes and skin.

- Use eye protection in accordance with applicable national and local regulations.
- Wear eye protection (safety glasses or goggles with side shields, and a welding helmet) with appropriate lens shading to protect your eyes from the arc's ultraviolet and infrared rays.

**Skin protection** Wear protective clothing to protect against burns caused by ultraviolet light, sparks, and hot metal.

- Wear gauntlet gloves, safety shoes, and hat.

- Wear flame-retardant clothing to cover all exposed areas.
- Wear cuffless trousers to prevent entry of sparks and slag.

Also, remove any combustibles, such as a butane lighter or matches, from your pockets before cutting.

**Cutting area** Prepare the cutting area to reduce reflection and transmission of ultraviolet light:

- Paint walls and other surfaces with dark colors to reduce reflection.
- Use protective screens or barriers to protect others from flash and glare.
- Warn others not to watch the arc. Use placards or signs.

Arc current	Minimum protective shade number (ANSI Z49.1:2012)	Suggested shade number for comfort (ANSI Z49.1:2012)	OSHA 29CFR 1910.133(a)(5)	Europe EN168:2002
Less than 40 A	5	5	8	9
41 A to 60 A	6	6	8	9
61 A to 80 A	8	8	8	9
81 A to 125 A	8	9	8	9
126 A to 150 A	8	9	8	10
151 A to 175 A	8	9	8	11
176 A to 250 A	8	9	8	12
251 A to 300 A	8	9	8	13
301 A to 400 A	9	12	9	13
401 A to 800 A	10	14	10	N/A



## MEDICAL IMPLANT, PACEMAKER, AND HEARING AID OPERATION

Medical implant, pacemaker, and hearing aid operation can be affected by magnetic fields from high currents.

Medical implant, pacemaker, and hearing aid wearers should consult a doctor before going near any plasma arc cutting and gouging operations.

To reduce magnetic field hazards:

- Keep both the work lead and the torch lead to one side, away from your body.
- Route the torch leads as close as possible to the work lead.
- Do not wrap or drape the torch lead or work lead around your body.
- Keep as far away from the power supply as possible.



## NOISE CAN DAMAGE HEARING

Cutting with a plasma arc can exceed acceptable noise levels as defined by local regulations in many applications. Prolonged exposure to excessive noise can damage hearing. Always wear proper ear protection when cutting or gouging, unless sound pressure level measurements taken at the site have verified personal hearing protection is not necessary per relevant international, regional, and local regulations.

Significant noise reduction can be obtained by adding simple engineering controls to cutting tables such as barriers or curtains positioned between the plasma arc and the workstation, and/or locating the workstation away from the plasma arc. Implement administrative controls in the workplace to restrict access and limit operator exposure time, and screen off noisy areas and/or take measures to reduce reverberation in cutting areas by putting up noise absorbers.

Use ear protectors if the noise is disruptive or if there is a risk of hearing damage after all other engineering and administrative controls have been implemented. If hearing protection is required, wear only approved personal protective equipment such as ear muffs or ear plugs with a noise reduction rating appropriate for the situation. Warn others near the cutting area of possible noise hazards. In addition, ear protection can prevent hot splatter from entering the ear.

## DRY DUST COLLECTION INFORMATION

In some workplaces, dry dust can represent a potential explosion hazard.

The U.S. National Fire Protection Association's NFPA standard 68, "Explosion Protection by Deflagration Venting," provides requirements for the design, location, installation, maintenance, and use of devices and systems to vent combustion gases and pressures after any deflagration event. Consult with the manufacturer or installer of any dry dust collection system for applicable requirements before you install a new dry dust collection system or make significant changes in the process or materials used with an existing dry dust collection system.

Consult your local "Authority Having Jurisdiction" (AHJ) to determine whether any edition of NFPA standard 68 has been "adopted by reference" in your local building codes.

Refer to NFPA standard 68 for definitions and explanations of regulatory terms such as deflagration, AHJ, adopted by reference, the Kst value, deflagration index, and other terms.

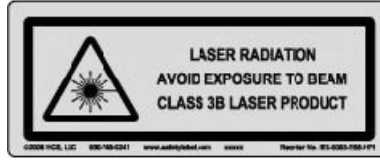
Note 1 – Unless a site-specific evaluation has been completed that determines that none of the dust generated is combustible, then NFPA standard 68 requires the use of explosion vents. Design the explosion vent size and type to conform to the worst-case Kst value as described in Annex F of NFPA standard 68. NFPA standard 68 does not specifically identify plasma cutting or other thermal cutting processes as requiring deflagration venting systems, but it does apply these new requirements to all dry dust collection systems.

Note 2 – Users should consult and comply with all applicable national, state, and local regulations. Publications do not intend to urge action that is not in compliance with all applicable regulations and standards, and this manual may never be construed as doing so.

## LASER RADIATION

Exposure to the laser beam from a laser pointer can result in serious eye injury. Avoid direct eye exposure.

On products that use a laser pointer for alignment, one of the following laser radiation labels has been applied on the product near where the laser beam exits the enclosure. The maximum output (mV), wavelength emitted (nM), and, if appropriate, pulse duration are also provided.



Additional laser safety instructions:

- Consult with an expert on local laser regulations. Laser safety training may be required.
- Do not allow untrained persons to operate the laser. Lasers can be dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
- Do not look into the laser aperture or beam at any time.
- Position the laser as instructed to avoid unintentional eye contact.
- Do not use the laser on reflective workpieces.
- Do not use optical tools to view or reflect the laser beam.
- Do not disassemble or remove the laser or aperture cover.
- Modifying the laser or product in any way can increase the risk of laser radiation.
- Use of adjustments or performance of procedures other than those specified in this manual may result in hazardous laser radiation exposure.
- Do not operate in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases, or dust.
- Use only laser parts and accessories that are recommended or provided by the manufacturer for your model.
- Repairs and servicing **must** be performed by qualified personnel.
- Do not remove or deface the laser safety label.

## ADDITIONAL SAFETY INFORMATION

1. ANSI Standard Z49.1, Safety in Welding and Cutting, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 Street, # 130, Miami, Florida 33166-6672
2. ANSI Standard Z49.2, Fire Prevention in the Use of Cutting and Welding Processes, American National Standards Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10036
3. ANSI Standard Z87.1, Safe Practices for Occupation and Educational Eye and Face Protection, American National Standards Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10036
4. AWS F4.1, Recommended Safe Practices for the Preparation for Welding and Cutting of Containers and Piping That Have Held Hazardous Substances, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 Street, # 130, Miami, Florida 33166-6672
5. AWS F5.2, Recommended Safe Practices for Plasma Arc Cutting, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 Street, # 130, Miami, Florida 33166-6672
6. CGA Pamphlet P-1, Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Cylinders, Compressed Gas Association, 14501 George Carter Way, Suite 103, Chantilly, VA 20151
7. CSA Standard W117.2, Code for Safety in Welding and Cutting, Canadian Standards Association Standard Sales, 178 Rexdale Boulevard, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 1R3, Canada
8. NFPA Standard 51B, Cutting and Welding Processes, National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
9. NFPA Standard 70, National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
10. U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room Number N3626, Washington, D.C. 20210
11. AWS Safety and Health Fact Sheets, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 Street, # 130, Miami, Florida 33166-6672, [www.aws.org/technical/facts/](http://www.aws.org/technical/facts/)



## Introduction

Hypertherm maintains a global Regulatory Management System to ensure that products comply with regulatory and environmental requirements.

## National and local safety regulations

National and Local safety regulations shall take precedence over any instructions provided with the product. The product shall be imported, installed, operated and disposed of in accordance with national and local regulations applicable to the installed site.

## Certification test marks

Certified products are identified by one or more certification test marks from accredited testing laboratories. The certification test marks are located on or near the data plate.

Each certification test mark means that the product and its safety-critical components conform to the relevant national safety standards as reviewed and determined by that testing laboratory. Hypertherm places a certification test mark on its products only after that product is manufactured with safety-critical components that have been authorized by the accredited testing laboratory.

Once the product has left the Hypertherm factory, the certification test marks are invalidated if any of the following occurs:

- The product is modified in a manner that creates a hazard or non-conformance with the applicable standards.
- Safety-critical components are replaced with unauthorized spare parts.
- Any unauthorized assembly, or accessory that uses or generates a hazardous voltage is added.
- There is any tampering with a safety circuit or other feature that is designed into the product as part of the certification, or otherwise.

CE marking constitutes a manufacturer's declaration of conformity to applicable European directives and standards. Only those versions of Hypertherm products with a CE Marking located on or near the data plate have been tested for compliance with the European Low Voltage Directive and the European EMC Directive. EMC filters needed to comply with the European EMC Directive are incorporated within versions of the power supply with a CE Marking.

Certificates of compliance for Hypertherm products are available from the Documents Library on the Hypertherm web site at [www.hypertherm.com/docs](http://www.hypertherm.com/docs).

## Differences in national standards

Nations may apply different performance, safety or other standards. National differences in standards include, but are not limited to:

- Voltages
- Plug and cord ratings
- Language requirements
- Electromagnetic compatibility requirements

These differences in national or other standards may make it impossible or impractical for all certification test marks to be placed on the same version of a product. For example, the CSA versions of Hypertherm's products do not comply with European EMC requirements, and therefore do not have a CE marking on the data plate.

Countries that require CE marking or have compulsory EMC regulations must use CE versions of Hypertherm products with the CE marking on the data plate. These include, but are not limited to:

- Australia
- New Zealand
- Countries in the European Union
- Russia

It is important that the product and its certification test mark be suitable for the end-use installation site. When Hypertherm products are shipped to one country for export to another country; the product must be configured and certified properly for the end-use site.

## Safe installation and use of shape cutting equipment

IEC 60974-9, titled Arc Welding Equipment – Installation and use, provides guidance in the safe installation and use of shape cutting equipment and the safe performance of cutting operations. The requirements of national and local regulations shall be taken into consideration during installation, including, but not limited to, grounding or protective earth connections, fuses, supply disconnecting device, and type of supply circuit. Read these instructions before installing the equipment. The first and most important step is the safety assessment of the installation.

The safety assessment must be performed by an expert, and determines what steps are necessary to create a safe environment, and what precautions should be adopted during the actual installation and operation.

## Procedures for periodic inspection and testing

Where required by local national regulations, IEC 60974-4 specifies test procedures for periodic inspection and after repair or maintenance, to ensure electrical safety for plasma cutting power sources built in conformity with IEC 60974-1. Hypertherm performs the continuity of the protective circuit and insulation resistance tests in the factory as non-operating tests. The tests are performed with the power and ground connections removed.

Hypertherm also removes some protective devices that would cause false test results. Where required by local national regulations, a label shall be attached to the equipment to indicate that it has passed the tests prescribed by IEC 60974-4. The repair report shall indicate the results of all tests unless an indication is made that a particular test has not been performed.

### Qualification of test personnel

Electrical safety tests for shape cutting equipment can be hazardous and shall be carried out by an expert in the field of electrical repair, preferably someone also familiar with welding, cutting, and allied processes. The safety risks to personnel and equipment, when unqualified personnel are performing these tests, may be much greater than the benefit of periodic inspection and testing.

Hypertherm recommends that only visual inspection be performed unless the electrical safety tests are specifically required by local national regulations in the country where the equipment is installed.

### Residual current devices (RCDs)

In Australia and some other countries, local codes may require the use of a Residual Current Devices (RCD) when portable electrical equipment is used in the workplace or at construction sites to protect operators from electrical faults in the equipment. RCDs are designed to safely disconnect the mains electrical supply when an imbalance is detected between the supply and return current (there is a leakage current to earth). RCDs are available with both fixed and adjustable trip currents between 6 to 40 milliamperes and a range of trip times up to 300 milliseconds selected for the equipment installation, application and intended use. Where RCDs are used, the trip current and trip time on RCDs should be selected or adjusted high enough to avoid nuisance tripping during normal operation of the plasma cutting equipment and low enough in the extremely unlikely event of an electrical fault in the equipment to disconnect the supply before the leakage current under a fault condition can pose a life threatening electrical hazard to operators.

To verify that the RCDs continue to function properly over time, both the trip current and the trip time should be tested periodically. Portable electrical equipment and RCDs used in commercial and industrial areas in Australia and New Zealand are tested to the Australian standard AS/NZS 3760. When you test the insulation of plasma cutting equipment to AS/NZS 3760, measure the insulation resistance according to Appendix B of the standard, at 250 VDC with the power switch in the ON position to verify proper testing and to avoid the false failure of the leakage current test. False failures are possible because the metal oxide varistors (MOVs) and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) filters, used to reduce emissions and protect the equipment from power surges, may conduct up to 10 milliamperes leakage current to earth under normal conditions.

If you have any questions regarding the application or interpretation of any IEC standards described here, you are required to consult with an appropriate legal or other advisor familiar with the International Electrotechnical standards, and shall not rely on Hypertherm in any respect regarding the interpretation or application of such standards.

### Higher-level systems

When a system integrator adds additional equipment; such as cutting tables, motor drives, motion controllers or robots; to a Hypertherm plasma cutting system, the combined system may be considered a higher-level system. A higher-level system with hazardous moving parts may constitute industrial machinery or robotic equipment, in which case the OEM or end-use customer may be subject to additional regulations and standards than those relevant to the plasma cutting system as manufactured by Hypertherm.

It is the responsibility of the end-use customer and the OEM to perform a risk assessment for the higher-level system, and to provide protection against hazardous moving parts. Unless the higher-level system is certified when the OEM incorporates Hypertherm products into it, the installation also may be subject to approval by local authorities. Seek advice from legal counsel and local regulatory experts if you are uncertain about compliance.

External interconnecting cables between component parts of the higher level system must be suitable for contaminants and movement as required by the final end use installation site. When the external interconnecting cables are subject to oil, dust, water, or other contaminants, hard usage ratings may be required.

When external interconnecting cables are subject to continuous movement, constant flexing ratings may be required. It is the responsibility of the end-use customer or the OEM to ensure the cables are suitable for the application. Since there are differences in the ratings and costs that can be required by local regulations for higher level systems, it is necessary to verify that any external interconnecting cables are suitable for the end-use installation site.

## Introduction

The Hypertherm Environmental Specification requires RoHS, WEEE and REACH substance information to be provided by Hypertherm's suppliers.

Product environmental compliance does not address the indoor air quality or environmental release of fumes by the end user. Any materials that are cut by the end user are not provided by Hypertherm with the product. The end user is responsible for the materials being cut as well as for safety and air quality in the workplace. The end user must be aware of the potential health risks of the fumes released from the materials being cut and comply with all local regulations.

## National and local environmental regulations

National and local environmental regulations shall take precedence over any instructions contained in this manual.

The product shall be imported, installed, operated and disposed of in accordance with all national and local environmental regulations applicable to the installed site.

The European Environmental regulations are discussed later in *The WEEE Directive*.

## The RoHS directive

Hypertherm is committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations, including the European Union Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive that restricts the use of hazardous materials in electronics products. Hypertherm exceeds RoHS Directive compliance obligations on a global basis.

Hypertherm continues to work toward the reduction of RoHS materials in our products, which are subject to the RoHS Directive, except where it is widely recognized that there is no feasible alternative.

Declarations of RoHS Conformity have been prepared for the current CE versions of Hypertherm products that fall within the scope of the RoHS Directive. These RoHS-compliant products also have a "RoHS mark" near the "CE Marking" on the data plate. Parts and other products manufactured by Hypertherm that are either out of scope or exempt from RoHS are continuously being converted to RoHS compliance in anticipation of future requirements, and there is no "RoHS mark" on their data plates.

## Proper disposal of Hypertherm products

Hypertherm plasma cutting systems, like all electronic products, may contain materials or components, such as printed circuit boards, that cannot be discarded with ordinary waste. It is your responsibility to dispose of any Hypertherm product or component part in an environmentally acceptable manner according to national and local codes.

- In the United States, check all federal, state, and local laws.
- In the European Union, check the EU directives, national, and local laws.
- In other countries, check national and local laws.
- Consult with legal or other compliance experts when appropriate.

A variety of options for sustainable disposal of Hypertherm products are available on our website at [www.hypertherm.com/recycle](http://www.hypertherm.com/recycle).

## The WEEE Directive

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union authorized Directive 2012/19/EU or WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Recast.

As required by the legislation, any Hypertherm product covered by the directive and sold in the EU after August 13, 2005 is marked with the WEEE symbol. This directive encourages and sets specific criteria for the collection, handling, and recycling of EEE waste. Consumer and business-to-business wastes are treated differently (all Hypertherm products are considered business-to-business). Disposal options for Hypertherm systems can be found at [www.hypertherm.com/recycle](http://www.hypertherm.com/recycle).

The URL is printed on the symbol-only warning label for each CE version Hypertherm plasma system since 2006. The CSA versions of products manufactured by Hypertherm are either out of scope or exempt from WEEE.

## The REACH regulation

The REACH regulation, in force since June 1, 2007, has an impact on chemicals available to the European market. The REACH regulation requirements for component manufacturers states that the component shall not contain more than 0.1% by weight of the Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC).

Component manufacturers and other downstream users, such as Hypertherm, are obligated to obtain assurances from its suppliers that all chemicals used in or on Hypertherm products will have a European Chemical Agency (ECHA) registration number. To provide chemical information as required by the REACH regulation, Hypertherm requires suppliers to provide REACH declarations and identify any known use of REACH SVHC. Any use of SVHC in amounts exceeding 0.1% w/w of the parts has been eliminated.

The lubricants, sealants, coolants, adhesives, solvents, coatings and other preparations or mixtures used by Hypertherm in, on, for, or with its shape cutting equipment are used in very small quantities (except the coolant) and are commercially available with multiple sources that can and will be replaced in the event of a supplier problem associated with REACH Registration or REACH Authorization (SVHCs).

### Proper handling and safe use of chemicals

Chemical Regulations in the USA, Europe, and other locations require that Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or Safety Data Sheets (SDS) be made available for all chemicals. The list of chemicals is provided by Hypertherm. The MSDS are for chemicals provided with the product and other chemicals used in or on the product. MSDS can be downloaded from the Documents Library on the Hypertherm web site at [www.hypertherm.com/docs](http://www.hypertherm.com/docs). In the Documents Library, select "Material Safety Data Sheets" in the Category drop-down menu.

In the USA, OSHA does not require Material Safety Data Sheets for articles such as electrodes, swirl rings, retaining caps, nozzles, shields, deflectors and other solid parts of the torch.

Hypertherm does not manufacture or provide the materials that are cut and has no knowledge whether the fumes released from materials that are cut will pose a physical hazard or health risk. Please consult with your supplier or other technical advisor if you need guidance concerning the properties of the material you will cut using a Hypertherm product.

### Fumes emission and air quality

Note: The following information on air quality is intended for general information only and should not be used as a substitute for reviewing and implementing applicable government regulations or legal standards in the country where the cutting equipment will be installed and operated.

In the USA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Manual of Analytical Methods (NMAM) is a collection of methods for sampling and analyzing contaminants in workplace air. Methods published by others, such as OSHA, MSHA, EPA, ASTM, ISO or commercial suppliers of sampling and analytical equipment, may have advantages over NIOSH methods.

For example, ASTM Practice D 4185 is a standard practice for the collection, dissolution, and determination of trace metals in workplace atmospheres. The sensitivity, detection limit, and optimum working concentrations for 23 metals are listed in ASTM D 4185. An industrial hygienist should be used to determine the optimum sampling protocol, considering analytical accuracy, cost, and optimum sample number. Hypertherm uses a third party industrial hygienist to perform and interpret air quality testing results taken by air sampling equipment positioned at operator stations in Hypertherm buildings where plasma cutting tables are installed and operated.

Where applicable, Hypertherm also uses a third party industrial hygienist to obtain air and water permits.

If you are not fully aware and up to date on all applicable government regulations and legal standards for the installation site, you should consult a local expert prior to purchasing, installing, and operating the equipment.

### California's Proposition 65 regulation

California's Proposition 65 regulation requires all businesses and industries that sell products in California to include warning labels if exposure to one or more of the chemicals on the Proposition 65 chemical list is possible. The regulation requires clear and reasonable warnings on products and facilities that contain these chemicals that are "known to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm." As always, we encourage our customers to use our equipment correctly, including the use of ventilation and personal protective equipment (PPE) during cutting, and to make and keep a safe working environment. For more information go to [www.p65warnings.ca.gov](http://www.p65warnings.ca.gov).