

# SAFE WORK PRACTICES

## ABRASIVE WHEELS – HANDLING & STORAGE

*\*This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

**Selection of Wheels:** Selecting the right wheel for the job is of critical importance for safety. A wheel is dangerous when used for work it was not designed for. Booklets from wheel and machine manufacturers provide technical information on wheel use. Use only wheels marked with the type of wheel and maximum speed in rpms.

### Inspection:

1. Upon receipt of all wheels, examine for any signs of damage. Use the "Ring Test". Ring tests do not apply to small wheels 10 cm (4 in) diameter and smaller.
2. Tap wheels gently with a nonmetallic tool such as a plastic screwdriver handle or wooden mallet. A sound wheel will emit a ring. Reject any wheel that sounds dead or cracked.

### Handling:

1. All abrasive wheels are fragile.
2. Handle wheels carefully. Avoid dropping or bumping.
3. Provide a soft surface to roll wheels on if they cannot be carried.
4. Support heavy wheels on a clean hard floor; suspend light wheels from hole by small pin or finger.
5. Transport wheels in containers designed to provide support for the wheels.
6. Do not pile other items such as tools on top of wheels.

### Storage:

1. Store wheels in racks or bins with dividers for different types of wheels.
2. Place straight or tapered wheels on end in a cradle or chocked position to prevent rolling.
3. Store thin wheels on a flat surface.
4. Stack cylinder and straight cup wheels on the flat side with cushioning material, such as cardboard.
5. Never store wheels near excessive heat, in contact with oil or moisture, or in drawers with loose tools.