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| **SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE**  **PROXXON THERMOCUT 230/E HOT WIRE CUTTER** | |
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| **DO NOT** use this machine unless the Supervisor has instructed you in its safe use and operation and has given permission | |
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| Approved safety glasses must be worn at all times in work areas. | **Prohibition circle**Prohibition circleA suitable P2 or P3 filter mask *must* be worn whenever potentially toxic smoke and fumes are created. |
| Foot Protection circleAppropriate protective footwear with substantial uppers must be worn. | A suitable protective workshop apron and gloves are advisable. |

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### **CAUTION: skin contact with the hot Nichrome wire will result in burns**

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### **PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS**

1. **Examine the power lead and tool for obvious damage.**
2. **Check the wire is intact, under slight tension, and set at the desired angle in relation to the table.**
3. **Ensure that the cord does not create a slip/trip hazard.**
4. **Ensure the workspace is well ventilated (ie., hot wire operated under shelter outdoors with fan blowing fumes away from operator OR hot wire operated indoors with suitably-rated extractor positioned to draw fumes away from operator).**
5. **Never leave the tool unattended when turned on or still hot. Turn off the power when not in use.**
6. **The hot wire is intended for cutting rigid thermoplastic foams (EPS, XPS) only. Thermoset upholstery foams cannot be cut using a hot wire.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Switch on the power to the hot wire with the rotary regulator dial set to 1. While gently pushing a piece of foam through the wire, increase the regulator setting until the foam cuts without having to apply force to the foam or work too quickly.**
2. **Keep fingers clear of the extremely hot wire.**
3. **Always wear gloves that are resistant to hot temperatures to protect against burns.**
4. **If the Nichrome wire breaks, switch off the power and report the fault to the Supervisor.**
5. **Never leave the hot wire cutter unattended when still switched ON or when switched OFF but still HOT. You can test that the wire has sufficiently cooled if it will no longer cut a piece of scrap foam.**

#### HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Switch off, unplug and allow to cool down before storing.**
2. **Leave the work area in a safe, clean and tidy condition.**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

* + **Hot surface ◼ Burns ◼ Fire ◼ Electricity ◼ Toxic fumes**

This SOP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with the tool and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed to be used as an adjunct to teaching Safety Procedures and to act as a reminder to users prior to tool use.

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