



Checklist for Hand Tools


Hazards/factors	Things to look for	Hazard present?	Comments	Suggested action/Solutions to consider	Action taken?
<p>Hand tools e.g. windy gun, Stenson</p> 	Is the tool heavy to hold, bulky, unwieldy?			Is there a lighter model available? Can a sling be used to support the weight?	
	Is vibration a problem? Is it jerky?			Can the vibration be dampened? Are spring-loaded handles available/suitable?	
	Is noise a problem?			Are you wearing suitable hearing protection? Check with the Medic if you are concerned.	
	Is significant force needed to operate it?			Can you wear softer gloves so you don't grip as tightly? Keep your hands warm.	
	Is your wrist in an awkward position (i.e. not straight)?			Can you work with your wrists straight? If not, make sure you let your hand/arm recover after using the tool.	
	Is the handle comfortable to hold? Is it shaped? Does this help you? Is it a manageable sized handle?			Would it help to enlarge the handle? Are there any sharp edges that could be rounded? It is generally better not to have finger-shaped handles so would it be possible to replace the handle? Does the handle need to be smaller or larger?	

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	Is there a trigger to work this tool?			Can this be operated easily? By left/right hands?	
	Are you left-handed? Is this a problem to use this tool?			Is another tool available that is easier? Are left-handed versions available?	
	Are both hands needed to hold this tool?			Can you do this easily?	
	Are the tools properly maintained?			Are the manufacturer's guidelines followed?	
	What type of gloves do you wear when using this tool?			They should be a good fit. If you have to wear specific gloves make sure they fit well. Can you wear soft gloves rather than tough rigid ones? These will make gripping easier.	

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Page 3 of 3

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	Is the handle long enough for your hand?			Can it be lengthened?	
	Is the material of the handle easy to grip?			Can you improve it? Can you wear gloves that improve your grip e.g. rubber or Teflon coated.	
	Is a manual hydraulic pump used?			Would it be practical to use an air operated pump instead?	