

August 2022 #22-053

General

Hand-held low voltage polishers have always been accepted as portable tools. Enquiries have been received regarding a subset of polishers - car polishers, which tend to be low powered versions. This guidance clarifies the risk level of the type of equipment.

Question

Are low voltage car polishers captured by the AS/NZS4417.2 definition of “Tool -portable type”, and therefore level 3?

Answer

Yes. The relevant standard is AS/NZS62841.2.3 for disc type polishers, or AS/NZS62841.2.4 for other than disc type polishers.

Background

The definition for portable tools is:

Tool—portable type

An electrical motor-operated appliance that—

- (a) is intended to do mechanical work
- (b) is with or without provisions for mounting on a support
- (c) is intended or designed to be held or supported by hand during operation

but does not include—

- (d) lawn and garden machinery
- (e) a tool, portable type, promoted exclusively to industry
- (f) a transportable tool;
- (g) a heat gun

Note: mechanical work involves operations such as machining, drilling, cutting, sawing, impacting, fixing, and surface preparation

Class specification:

AS/NZS 60745.1 plus the appropriate AS/NZS 60745 series Part 2 (until suspended by the relevant AS/NZS 62841 series Part 2, as stated in the relevant AS/ZS 62841 series Part 2); or

AS/NZS 62841.1 plus the appropriate AS/NZS 62841 series Part 2 (able to be applied as soon as published); or

Where there is not an AS/NZS 60745 series Part 2, or an AS/NZS 62841 series Part 2 – AS/NZS 3160

Polishing tools use a mechanical action for a form of surface preparation, eg cut and polishing. A car polisher has the same characteristics and therefore captured by the definition.

Examples:

