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| ***Portable_Plant_SOP***  **VACUUM FORMER** | |
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| **DO NOT** use this machine unless a teacher 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 all ITD spaces. | A suitable protective workshop apron is encouraged. |
| Foot Protection circleAppropriate protective footwear with substantial uppers must be worn in all ITD spaces. |  |

### **DO NOT use faulty equipment – report this immediately to your teacher**

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

1. **Ensure this machine has a suitable, safe work area.**
2. **Ensure all safety guards are serviceable and in place.**
3. **Check the general condition of the forming table.**
4. **Ensure that all clamping arrangements are adequate, secure and correctly adjusted.**
5. **Before switching on the power, ensure all controls are in their correct positions.**
6. **Have your teacher check all adjustments i.e. heat settings and air pressures, before attempting to vacuum form an article.**
7. **Ensure no other students are in the surrounding area.**

#### OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. **Take particular care when vacuum forming very hot thermoplastic materials. High air pressures are also used in this forming process.**
2. **Familiarise yourself with all machine operations and controls. If in doubt, ask for assistance.**
3. **Pre-heat the vacuum former to be sure the machine has reached the required temperature. Always handle heated plastic material with suitable cotton gloves.**
4. **Keep hands clear of the clamping area, the platen and the heating element while the machine is operating.**
5. **Take care to ensure to ensure that the heating element is moved away from the plastics material before the vacuum forming process begins.**
6. **Ensure that the air pressure vacuum is released to zero before releasing the clamping arrangements.**
7. **Do not use the compressed air to cool down an article or to clean down the work area.**

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| **Caution – high air pressures and heated plastics** |

#### HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Ensure all switches, guards and surfaces are cleaned.**
2. **Leave the work area in a safe, clean and tidy condition.**

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

* + **Hot machine parts ◼ Electricity ◼ Burns**
  + **Compressed air ◼ Eye injuries**

**Date of last review:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_