

Health and Safety Advice Sheet 17:

PRESSURE SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND

If pressure equipment fails in use, it can seriously injure or kill people nearby and cause serious damage to property. Each year in Great Britain, there are about 150 dangerous occurrences involving such unintentional releases. Around six of these result in fatal or serious injury.

THE LAW

Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO COMPLY?

Where these regulations do apply, then you must (quoted from *Pressure Systems – Safety and you INDG261(rev1)*):

- Choose a competent person (i.e. by a competent person (someone with the necessary Knowledge, Experience, Practical ability and Training (KEPT)) – usually an insurance engineer).
- Establish the safe operating limits of the plant;
- Provide safe and suitable equipment (i.e. installed correctly etc.);
- Know the operating conditions (i.e. gas, steam, liquid inside the vessel);
- Fit suitable protective devices and ensure that they function properly (This should already be installed in the types of equipment on site – if not, check with the manufacturer and / or your insurer);
- Carry out suitable maintenance (i.e. visual inspections);
- Make provision for appropriate training (i.e. operatives are trained to use the equipment safely);
- Have the equipment examined (i.e. a Written Scheme of inspection)

The Written Scheme would typically cover the:

- Identification number of the item of equipment or the parts to be examined;
- Nature of the examination required;
- Preparatory work to enable the item to be examined safely;
- Specify what examination is necessary before the system is first used;
- Maximum interval between one examination and the next;

- Critical parts of the system where modified etc should be examined by a competent person before the system is used again;
- Name of the competent person certifying the written scheme of examination; and
- The date of the certificate.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- Pressure Systems – Safety and you (INDG261(rev1)) HSE
- Written Schemes of Examination (INDG178) HSE
- The Safe Use of Gas Cylinders (INDG308) HSE
- Free HSE Leaflets: www.hse.gov.uk