

Engineering Inspection – What is it and why is it important?

There are many forms of Legislation in the UK placing a duty on organisations to have items of engineering or plant inspected periodically and failure to do so can have a very serious impact. Failure to have these Statutory inspections undertaken can lead to Fines, HSE Prosecutions, Civil Prosecutions and Insurance Claims not been covered by your policy of insurance.

Types of Plant requiring inspection:

Category	Types of Plant	Applicable Legislation
Lifting Equipment - work equipment used for lifting and lowering loads.	Excavators, Fork Lift Trucks, Mobile work Platform, Hoists, Mobile Cranes and Passenger/Goods Lifts.	Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER)
Pressure Systems - a system comprising one or more rigid pressure vessels with associated pipework and protective devices.	Heating Boiler, Hot Water Boiler, Coffee Machines, Steam Vessels, Refrigeration Plant, Air Conditioning Plant, Air Receivers (pressure vessel which stores compressed air)	Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR)
Electrical Installation - an electrical system in which all the electrical equipment is, or may be, electrically connected to a common source of electrical energy and includes such source and such equipment.	Fixed Wiring Circuit, Motors, Transformers, Switch-boards, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT), Generators and Gearboxes.	The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
Local Exhaust Ventilation - equipment that controls captures or contains airborne releases at 'or close to' the point of emission by means of ventilation and conveys the pollutant to a point where it can be safely collected or released.	Spray Booth, Fume Cupboard, Shot Blast Cabinets.	The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)
Power Presses - power driven mechanical presses which have a flywheel and clutch and are used wholly or partly to work cold metal.	Power press, Press Brake, Guillotine, Wood Working Machines and Guards.	Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)
Other Work Equipment - any machine, appliance, apparatus, tool or installation for use at work	Dock leveller, Conveyor systems, Tractors, Bulldozers and Escalators	Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)

/Continued overleaf

Inspection Frequencies:

Inspection frequencies can range anywhere from every 6 months for Passenger Lifts up to 5 years for Fixed Electrics. Each type of item has its own inspection frequency governed by the Legislation.

Confusion between 'Servicing' and 'Statutory Inspection':

There is often confusion within organisations as to whether they are having items inspected in accordance with the Legislation or not. Many organisations believe that they are adhering to the Legislation when they are having items 'Serviced' but upon further examination, this is not always the case. Any company conducting a Statutory Inspection will provide the organisation with a Certificate following the inspection along with recommendations as to whether any work to the item needs to be undertaken. Usual circumstances involve:

- Servicing Company – Undertaking the servicing, doing repairs and installing any suggested improvements.
- Insurer/Other Company – Undertaking the Statutory Inspection of the item and checking the work that has been done so that it complies with the Law.

Certification:

As previously mentioned, after each Statutory Inspection you should be provided with a 'Certification of Inspection' that should be retained within your records should any third party including the HSE need to see the official document.

D E Ford Insurance Brokers Assistance:

Working with our engineering inspection providers, we can arrange Statutory Inspections of your items of plant. We are able to approach a number of providers in the market and source the most competitive quotation for your organisation.

For further information contact one of our team.



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