

## **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 - summary**

This Regulation covers the “use” of equipment, which means **all activities** involving work equipment, including starting, stopping, programming, setting, transporting, repairing, modifying, maintaining, servicing and cleaning. “**Work Equipment**” means any machinery, appliance, apparatus, tool and any assembly of components arranged and controlled so that they function as a whole. Covers tractors, ladders, resuscitators to kitchen knives! Also includes Fork Lift Trucks, Power Presses and Lifting Equipment.

**Reg. 4 - Suitability of work equipment** - *must be constructed/adapted to be suitable for purpose provided, used only for operations for which suitable, regard to conditions.*

**Reg. 5 - Maintenance** - *equipment must be maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order, in good repair, and any maintenance log kept updated.*

**Reg. 6 - Inspection** - *of work equipment after installation or relocation and before first use. Equipment exposed to conditions likely to result in danger.*

**Reg. 7 - Specific risks** - *if specific risks involved in use, only those adequately trained to use/repair/maintain that equipment must do so. Restricted use!*

**Reg. 8 - Information and instructions** - *all users, and supervisors, to have adequate health & safety information, plus full written instructions for use.*

**Reg. 9 - Training** - *all equipment users and supervisors to have adequate training in its use and for purposes of h&s, including risks, precautions and working methods.*

**Reg. 10 - Conformity with Community requirements** - *must comply with EC requirements e.g. be CE or EN marked. Employers duty to ensure safety after 31/12/92.*

**Reg. 11 - Dangerous parts of machinery** - *prevention of access to moving parts and effective guarding, information, instruction, training & supervision.*

**Reg. 12 - Protection against specified hazards** - *users must be protected from hazards e.g. ejected items, fire, unintended discharge of article, dust etc*

**Reg. 13 - High or very low temperatures** - *very hot or cold equipment, or material produced must be protected against.*

**Reg. 14 - 18 - Controls, Control Systems, Stop & Emergency Stops -**

- *must have controls for starting, stopping, changing speeds, bringing equipment to stop or safe condition, plus isolate power if necessary,(14 & 15)*
- *1 or more emergency stop controls,(16)*
- *controls to be clearly visible & identifiable and marked where necessary. No control should be dangerously located,(17)*
- *Control systems must be safe, and not create risk to health or safety even if faulty or damaged.(18)*

**Reg. 19 - Isolation from sources of energy** - *means to isolate power to be provided which does not expose persons to risk when reconnecting-clearly identified & accessible.*

**Reg. 20 - Stability** - *equipment must be stable to avoid risks to health & safety.*

**Reg. 21 - Lighting** - *must be suitable and sufficient for work done.*

**Reg. 22 - Maintenance operations** - *equipment to be constructed/adapted to ensure safety during maintenance, or persons to be adequately protected eg temp guarding.*

**Reg. 23 - Marking** - *equipment to be marked clearly for reasons of health & safety.*

**Reg. 24 - Warnings** - *equipment must incorporate clear, unambiguous warnings & warning devices where appropriate for health and safety.*

**Reg. 25 - 27 - Mobile Work Equipment** - *if carrying employees must be designed to do so and have features to reduce risk from wheels or tracks. Equipment should be stable and rollover protection or crush prevention fitted unless this increases risk or make operation impracticable.*

**Reg. 28 - 29 - Self-propelled work equipment** - *to have means to prevent unauthorised operation; minimise consequence of collision; device(s) for braking & stopping; means to stop on leaving control range; means to prevent crushing & impacts.*

**Reg. 30 - Drive Shafts** - *means to prevent shaft seizing or to avoid injury due to seizure. Means to prevent damage or soiling of shaft when uncoupled.*

**Reg. 31 - 35 Power Presses** – *only apply to mechanically driven power presses with flywheel and clutch, and used to work metal.*

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