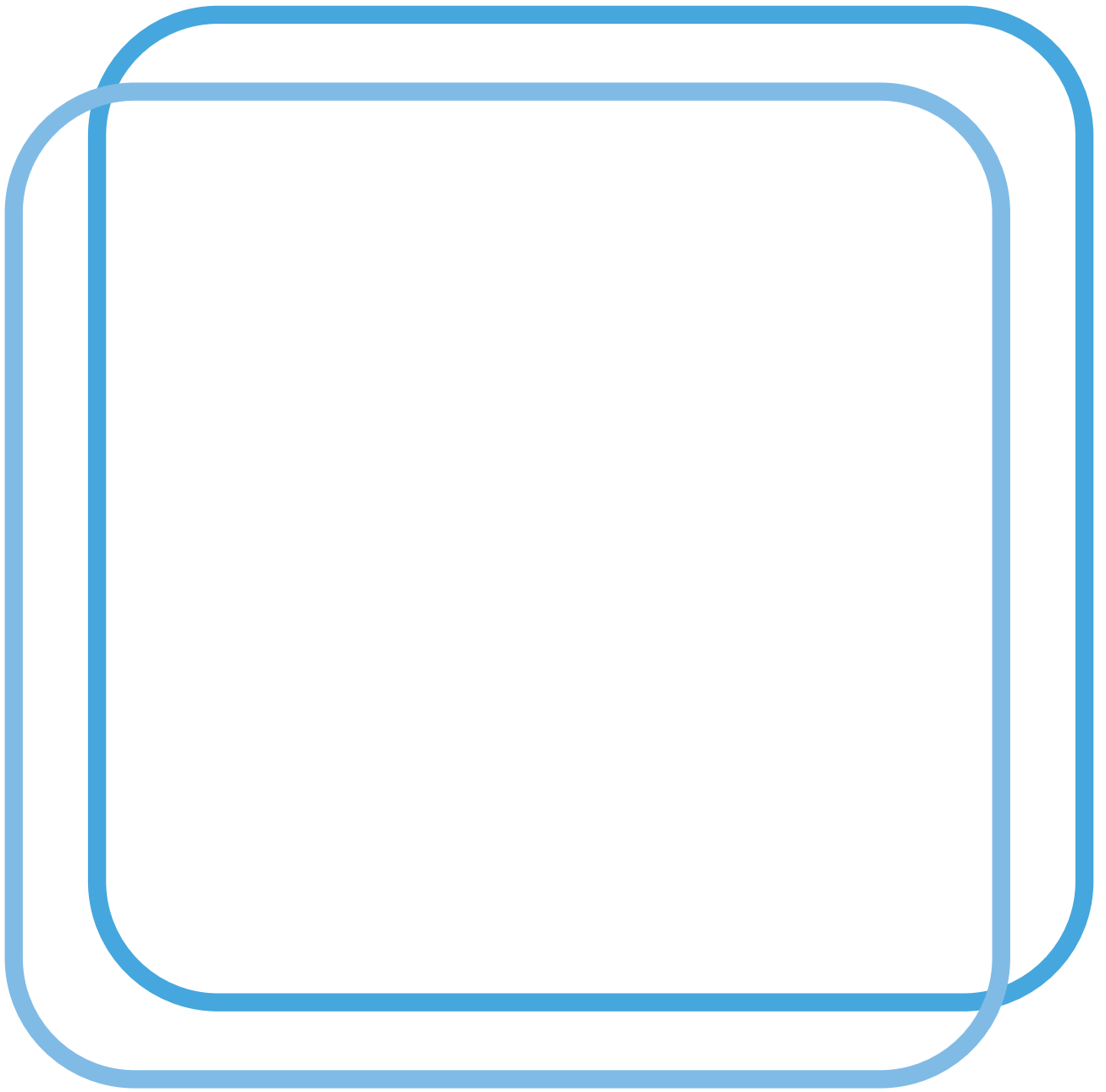


Work Equipment



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Safer Business - Better Health

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Introduction

<p>Introduction</p>	<p>The legislation that covers work equipment is the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (otherwise know as PUWER)</p> <p>The Regulations require risks to people’s health and safety, from equipment that they use at work,</p>	<p>to be prevented or controlled. In addition to the requirements of PUWER, lifting equipment is subject to the requirements of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (see the lifting equipment section for further details)</p>
<p>What does PUWER require?</p>	<p>In general terms that equipment provided for use at work is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suitable for the intended use; • safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • used only be people who have received adequate information, instruction and training; and • accompanied by suitable safety measures e.g. protective devices, markings and warnings.
<p>What type of equipment do the Regulations cover?</p>	<p>Generally, any equipment which is used by an employee at work is covered, for example hammers, knives, ladders, photocopiers. Also if you allow employees to provide their own equipment, it too will be covered by PUWER and you will need to make sure it complies.</p>	<p>Examples of uses of equipment which are covered by the Regulations include starting or stopping the equipment, repairing, modifying, maintaining, servicing, cleaning and transporting.</p>

But do the Regulations apply to all businesses

If you are an employer or self-employed person and you provide equipment for use at work, or if you have control of the use of equipment, then the Regulations will apply to you.

They do not apply to equipment used by the public, for example compressed air equipment used

in a garage forecourt. However these are covered under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act.

While employees do not have duties under PUWER, they do have general duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act.

What do the Regulations require me to do?

You must ensure that the work equipment you provide meets the requirements of PUWER. In doing so, you should ensure that it is:

- suitable for use, and for the purposes and conditions in which it is used;
- maintained in a safe condition for use so that people's health and safety is not at risk; and
- inspected in certain circumstances to ensure that it is, and continues to be, safe for use. Any inspection should be carried out by a competent person (this could be an employee if they have the necessary competence to perform the task) and a record kept until the next inspection.

You should also ensure that risks, created by the use of the equipment, are eliminated where possible or controlled by:

- taking appropriate 'hardware' measures, e.g. providing suitable guards, protection devices, markings and warning devices, system control devices (such as emergency stop buttons) and personal protective equipment; and
- taking appropriate 'software' measures such as following safe systems of work (e.g. ensuring maintenance is only performed when equipment is shut down etc.), and providing adequate information, instruction and training.

A combination of these measures may be necessary depending on the requirements of the work, your assessment of the risks involved, and the practicability of such measures.

You need to ensure that people using work equipment have received adequate training, instruction and information for that particular equipment.

Mobile work equipment

In addition to these general requirements which apply to all work equipment, Part III of PUWER contains specific duties regarding mobile work equipment, for example fork-lift trucks and dumper trucks.

You should ensure that where mobile work equipment is used for carrying people, it is suitable for this purpose. Measures should be taken to reduce the risks (e.g. from it rolling over) to the safety of the people being carried, the operator and anyone else.

Power presses

Part IV of the Regulations also contain specific requirements regarding power presses. In particular, you should have a power press and associated guard or protection device thoroughly examined at specified intervals and inspected daily in use to ensure it is safe. This work should only be performed by a competent person; records should be kept.