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VULCAN INSPECTION SERVICES  
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**VULCAN  
INSPECTION  
SERVICES**

## WORKING WITH PLANT & MACHINERY IN THE FOOD & DRINK MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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An easy guide to fulfilling your duties



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## ■ INTRODUCTION

**Do you have the appetite for business interruption, fines or even prosecution?**



**Between 2000 and 2012  
there were 53 fatal injuries  
in the food and drink  
manufacturing industry.**

The industry is large and diverse; whether you are a fledgling micro-distillery selling artisan gin, or a traditional manufacturer of dairy products, you still need to comply with the health and safety legislation which applies across all industries.

Most fatal injuries during this 12-year period involved machinery and plant or workplace transport. As an employer, you have a statutory duty to ensure that certain items of plant and machinery are thoroughly inspected at regular intervals, so that they are safe for continued use.

Whichever stage of the food or drink manufacturing process you're involved in, there will be some lifting items, pressure & steam items, extraction units or some hazardous areas. All of these fall under regulations requiring them to be inspected by a 'Competent Person' of sufficient independence.

## Case Studies from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) website

### FATAL FALL FROM LIFT TRUCK FORKS

A worker was standing on the raised forks of a fork lift truck (FLT) attempting to locate bulk bags onto the forks.

The FLT became overloaded and tilted forward throwing the worker onto the concrete floor from which he received fatal injuries.

Standing on the forks of FLTs, or a pallet mounted on the forks, regularly leads to fatal accidents.

### FLOUR DUST IN PLANT BAKERY

A 20-year old man was admitted to hospital from work with an acute asthmatic attack caused by flour dust inhalation. In the previous 12 months he had been absent from work for 25 days with chest symptoms.

His exposure to flour dust was dramatically reduced by engineering controls and better work methods and he was able to go back to work. In the following three years he did not have any time off with chest problems.

If you or one of your employees has an accident, the HSE will ask to see the up-to-date report of the thorough examination for your plant as part of their investigations. You may even be asked to show it if you're tendering for new business. So it's wise to know exactly what's required, which is where Vulcan Inspection Services can help.





## ■ BACKGROUND TO THE REGULATIONS

### What do the regulations mean for you and your business?

Put simply, the regulations are there to protect you and your employees and as a food and drink manufacturer, you'll need to prove that you are compliant.

### The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (1998) (LOLER)

LOLER applies to all places of work across all industries and covers any work equipment which lifts or lowers a load. This includes attachments used for anchoring, in addition to any chain, rope, sling or component kept for attaching loads to machinery for lifting.

Under LOLER, the following points need to be considered:

- the type of load being lifted
- the risk of the load falling and striking a person or object and the consequences
- the risk of the equipment striking a person or object and the consequences
- the risk of the lifting equipment failing or falling over in use.

If the equipment is likely to deteriorate then it must be subject to thorough examinations which are carried out by persons of sufficient competence who are independent and impartial enough to allow decisions to be made. These thorough examinations can be provided by Vulcan Inspection Services.

## LOLER Examination Frequency

The LOLER regulations prescribe the frequencies between thorough examinations of lifting equipment:

- every 6 months for lifting equipment used for lifting/lowering persons, such as an order picker used in a food storage facility or a tailboard loader on the back of a delivery van
- every 6 months for lifting accessories ('tackle') such as chains or slings
- every 12 months for all other lifting equipment not falling into either of the above categories, such as a fork lift truck in a warehouse.

Examples of lifting equipment within the food and drink manufacturing industry which fall under LOLER:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ■ crane track                        | ■ lorry loader crane                                  |
| ■ dock leveller                      | ■ pallet truck  |
| ■ electric overhead travelling crane | ■ passenger and/or goods lift                         |
| ■ electric, service or scissor lift  | ■ runway tracks                                       |
| ■ fore end loader                    | ■ skidsteer loader                                    |
| ■ fork lift truck                    | ■ tailboard loader                                    |
| ■ fork lift truck attachments        | ■ telescopic handler                                  |
| ■ jib/pillar crane                   | ■ telescopic handler attachment                       |
| ■ lifting jack                       | ■ winch/hoist   |
| ■ lifting tackle                     | ■ working access platform/cherry picker/order picker. |
| ■ loading shovel                     |   |

# The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR)

PSSR applies to users and owners of systems containing 'relevant' fluids (these include steam, gases under pressure and fluids that are artificially kept under pressure and become gases upon release into the atmosphere).

They require that the whole system is inspected in accordance with its 'Written Scheme of Examination' (WSE) which is a document that identifies the extent of the pressure system and outlines the examination requirements, including the frequency of inspections.

There are two main types of inspection:

- **a thorough examination, which involves the system being closed down and vessels opened up**
- **a working examination, which involves testing under pressure and is sometimes more frequent than the thorough examination.**

Only hot water boilers operating at more than 100°C fall within PSSR, however it is recommended that all hot water boilers are inspected. In addition, refrigeration and air-conditioning plant with combined compressor motors exceeding 25kw also fall within these regulations.



## Examination Frequency

General items that use steam should have both a thorough and working examination every 12 months, while there is more flexibility for items under pressure.

Typical types of pressure and steam plant found in the food and drink manufacturing industry:

- air receiver
- café steam boiler
- gas storage vessel
- hot water heating installation
- pressure vessel
- refrigeration plant greater than 25kw
- air conditioning plant greater than 25kw
- steam boiler
- steam cleaner
- steam jacketed pan
- steam tube oven
- sterilisation equipment.





# Electricity at Work Regulations 1999 (EAWR)

These regulations require all systems to be maintained to prevent danger. Furthermore, HSE guidance states that regular inspection and testing is an essential part of any maintenance programme.

## Examination Frequency

The examination frequency is dependent upon the type of business and risks presented, but is typically once every three or five years. Some trades may require an annual examination for licence purposes (for example, places of entertainment).

The main purpose of the examination is to identify serious defects likely to create an imminent risk of injury.

Vulcan Inspection Services can combine electrical wiring inspections with thermographic testing to further enhance the risk management of your premises. For example, using our thermographic imaging camera we can detect hotspots within composite panels which are often found within the food and drink manufacturing industry.



# The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)

These regulations apply to all work activities where substances hazardous to health are produced. The regulations place the onus on every employer to ensure that, where their employees are exposed to substances which are hazardous to health (for example flour mills), the risks are adequately controlled. This usually involves the use of Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) units.

The COSHH regulations require that LEV plant is examined by a Competent Person and this examination should be completed at intervals dependent on the trade/business and the application of the equipment. For example, an extraction unit on a cooker hood in a commercial kitchen should be examined by a 'Competent Person' at least once every 14 months.



## ■ THE INSPECTION PROCESS

If you decide to place your engineering inspection business with Vulcan Inspection Services, we will get in touch with you to arrange a convenient date for your inspection.

There are some things you may need to do before we arrive. For example, for pressure and steam plant we will need you to arrange for the equipment to be de-pressurised and opened out for us to undertake a thorough examination.

For lifting equipment, we may need you to provide a known load so that we can test the safe operating limit of your equipment. We will also need you to provide someone to operate the equipment so our Engineer Surveyor can complete a full thorough examination of all the working parts.





Once we've completed the examination, we will issue the report which you will either receive electronically (if you select this option) or in the post. However, if while on site the Engineer Surveyor finds a defect which is likely to cause imminent danger to people or damage to property, they will issue a 'Serious Defect Notice'. This usually means that the item of equipment must be taken out of service immediately and repaired before it's used again. Under the regulations, we have a statutory duty to send a copy to the local enforcing authority, which is usually the HSE. If we find a serious defect we will issue you with a hand-written notice on site, which we will ask someone to sign for so that it should never come as a surprise to you when you receive the formal report.

If you have any queries about the inspection or the report, the Engineer Surveyor, or our dedicated Account Management Team will be happy to discuss this with you.

Our job is to protect your business and your employees. We want to work closely with you to minimise disruption and reduce risk.



## ■ ABOUT VULCAN INSPECTION SERVICES

Vulcan Inspection Services has worked in partnership with NFU Mutual for over 20 years, providing statutory inspection solutions for their customers.

We have a dedicated Account Management Team based within NFU Mutual's Head Office in Stratford upon Avon. Each year, we inspect 100,000 items for NFU Mutual customers. We offer full UK coverage, including the Highlands and Islands, across all industries.

With a rich heritage in the inspection industry, we are a grade 'A' notified body and a founding member of The Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed). Our roots stretch back to 1859 and we are the founder of the engineering inspection industry. Today, we employ a team of over 450 highly trained Engineer Surveyors and Consultant Engineers.







**FIND OUT WHAT MORE WE CAN  
DO TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS**

Contact your local  
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