



VULCAN
INSPECTION
SERVICES



HELPING KEEP THE WINE INDUSTRY PRODUCING, SIMPLE.

Producing wine in the UK can be a risky business due to so many factors that are out of your control, including the typically unpredictable weather we can't seem to avoid! Fortunately for our wine producers (and consumers!) one of the biggest risks can be actively managed. By looking after your machinery and plant, you can make sure you're doing everything you can to help keep your people safe and your equipment operational, with no compromise, ever.

The British Wine industry just keeps on growing. And with this comes investment in new premises, new technologies and new, or even second hand, machinery.

That's where things can get serious. When it comes to industrial machinery, such as some of the equipment you might use as a wine producer, it's important nothing is left to chance.

When it goes wrong, it can really go wrong and that's why we have legislation in the UK which governs the supply, maintenance and thorough examination of machinery. Working in accordance with these regulations is an absolute must and you'd be surprised how many people aren't aware of this!

Safety is at the heart of this legislation and whether you produce wine using more traditional methods or brand-new technologies, it is more than likely that some of them will apply to you and your business. At Vulcan Inspection Services we take risk very seriously. We have a long history of working with the wine industry and we really know our stuff. We understand how the regulations affect your business and we're here to help you make sure get it right. Here's a bit more about some of the legislation likely to impact you.

LIFTING EQUIPMENT

Workplace transport accidents are the second biggest cause of fatalities within the Food and Drink Manufacturing sector, so it's crucial that this is done properly. When you're buying new machinery, making sure it's both safe and right for the job is absolutely key.

In line with The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) when buying new equipment users must check:-

- That it is CE or UKCA marked
- That it is supplied with a Declaration of Conformity and user instructions in English and
- That it is free from any other obvious defect.

When considering what equipment to buy, you'll need to think about where and how it will be used. You'll also need to consider usage frequency and the impact of the machine on its surroundings e.g. will it affect access to other areas and do your workers have the right skills to use it?

And that's not all, users have an ongoing responsibility to make sure their machines are properly maintained and thoroughly examined by a competent person of sufficient independence.

So if you're purchasing second hand equipment you will need to check that it's CE or UKCA marked, has a Safe Working Load (SWL) clearly marked and that there is a current report of thorough examination in line with the relevant regulations, which will ensure any identified defects have been rectified by the seller.

WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN TO YOU?

Put simply it means: -

- You need to make sure you choose the correct equipment for the job
- That it's properly constructed
- That it's used in a safe environment
- That employees are properly trained to use it
- That it's regularly maintained
- That you arrange for periodic thorough examinations to check that it is safe for continued use and is free from defects.

Typical types of equipment that might be found in a winery or vineyard which would fall under the regulations include forklift trucks, telescopic handlers, fore end loaders, electric hoists and tackle and overhead cranes.



Most equipment needs a thorough examination by a competent person, someone who has the right practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of the plant being examined, at 12 monthly intervals. If the equipment is designed to lift people – such as a mobile elevating work platform – or a man cage on a telescopic handler – these would need to be inspected every 6 months as would accessories for lifting and some telescopic handler attachments.

IN THE REAL WORLD...

A drinks manufacturer was recently fined a total of over £60,000 after a delivery driver was hit by a forklift truck while on site. The HSE found that the firm had failed to implement a safe work transport system which resulted in the driver being struck by the machine which trapped his leg beneath the forks. The company was found to have inadequate risk assessments which would have prevented pedestrians coming into contact with the workplace transport.

It's a risky business, but this could have been avoided.

PRESSURE SYSTEMS

PURCHASE AND USE OF PRESSURE SYSTEMS

When buying a pressure system, it's important to make sure you're buying equipment that is safe and legally compliant.

Once you're happy that the equipment has been manufactured correctly, has all the right supporting documentation and is free from any defects, you will need to engage the services of a competent person before the vessel is put into use. They will examine the plant and draw up a Written Scheme of Examination which will specify the nature and frequency of examinations and they will also examine the equipment as required by Section 9 of the PSSR to ensure that the machine is safe for continued use.

As the user of a pressure system you will also need to ensure that the equipment is regularly maintained and that operators are properly trained to use it.

IN THE REAL WORLD...

Vulcan Inspection Services were recently asked to inspect a second-hand boiler in a small drinks manufacturer.

When our Engineer Surveyor visited the site for the first time, he realised that the boiler had very little system information in order to verify the Safe Operating Limits which meant he was unable to undertake a Written Scheme of Examination or a thorough examination in line with the PSSR.

To rectify this, Vulcan Inspection Services would need to undertake a Consultancy contract costing several thousands of pounds in order to verify the integrity of the vessel. This could have been avoided if the customer had asked VIS to undertake a Prior to Purchase examination. The lack of documentation would have been picked up and the brewery would have been made aware of this before buying the 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.

The examination frequency depends on the type of business and associated risks but is typically once every 3 or 5 years. Some trades may require an annual examination for licence purposes, such as places of entertainment.

The main purpose of the examination is to identify serious defects likely to create an imminent risk of injury. Engineering inspection companies such as Vulcan Inspection Services can combine electrical wiring inspections with thermographic testing to improve the risk management of your premises even further- using our thermographic imaging camera we can detect hotspots within your building which, left unchecked, could lead to a catastrophic incident.

For further information contact your local, specialist
viticulture NFU Mutual Agent or Melissa Boyes, Vulcan
Inspection Services Account Director on **01789 265355**.