



VULCAN  
INSPECTION  
SERVICES

# THE HSE ARE INSPECTING IN YOUR AREA

In recent years the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has placed more focus on farm safety than ever before.

However, despite this focus, the workplace death rate in the agricultural sector still remains 21 times higher than in other industries.

In their mission to reduce the high rate of deaths, workplace accidents, and injuries in the agriculture industry, **the HSE has announced that they will be inspecting farms in different areas of England and South Wales between Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024.**

Some of the areas they will be looking at are workplace transport and the risks of being struck by a moving or overturning vehicle, and also whether workplace machinery is properly maintained and regularly inspected by a competent person. To help you comply with some of the regulations in preparation for the upcoming inspections, Vulcan Inspection Services will work closely with NFU Mutual to provide statutory inspections of equipment for their customers.

**Below are the key regulations the HSE will follow when inspecting your equipment to ensure compliance.**



## **LOLER**

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) apply to all businesses, including those in the agricultural industry and farmers. However, farmers often think they are exempt and that these regulations don't apply to them, despite these regulations being in effect since 1998!

**Failing to have a thorough examination of lifting machinery is just one of the breaches of H&S law.**

The HSE's guidance document states the following examples of what is considered to be lifting equipment under LOLER:

- Tractor fore loaders, forklift trucks and telescopic handlers (telehandlers)
- Workshop hoists and rope hoists
- Cranes on machines (e.g., on lorries or fertiliser spreaders); and
- Lifting attachments and accessories.

LOLER states that a risk assessment must be carried out to look at (amongst other things):

- The suitability of the equipment for the job being carried (e.g., people should only be raised on work equipment which is specifically designed for that purpose, such as a mobile elevating work platform or man-basket attachment, as opposed to the bucket of a telescopic handler)
- The risk of the load falling and striking someone
- The risk of the machine toppling over
- That the safe working load is clearly marked on the machine and that the machine is CE marked (apart from in the case of non-integrated platforms on lift trucks – see HSE document PM28 for further information).

In addition, where there is a risk of the equipment deteriorating and injuring someone, the machine must be thoroughly examined by a competent person of sufficient independence – like our team of expert engineer surveyors at Vulcan Inspection Services. We're both qualified and impartial, and our people have decades of experience in inspecting critical lifting equipment on farms.

**Proud to be a leading risk management service provider to the agricultural industry**

**IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT BUSINESSES ARE PROTECTED BEFORE THE HSE COMES KNOCKING.**

If lifting equipment used on a farm lifts loads over, or in close proximity to, people, they should be thoroughly examined at regular intervals (usually 6 monthly for equipment or accessories that lift people and 12 monthly for everything else). This includes employees, contractors, members of the public or anyone else who comes onto the site.



#### **We are:**

- Completely independent
- Able to inspect your lifting and pressure equipment during our site visit.
- Our expert testing and inspection services are in line with LOLER, PSSR, PUWER and many more.

### **OF COURSE, IT'S NOT JUST LIFTING EQUIPMENT THAT NEEDS INSPECTING.**

#### **PSSR**

Pressure regulations apply to a wide range of equipment, from coffee machines to air receivers. With this, items under pressure, or using steam, should be thoroughly examined under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR).

#### **COSHH**

Under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, the plant used for dust or fume extraction should also be inspected by an independent competent person, who can ensure whether it is safe for continued use.

#### **THE AVERAGE HSE FINE IS £895**

During the period from April 2022 to March 2023, the HSE issued 637 fines under the Fee for Intervention to the agricultural industry for breaches of H&S law. The total amount charged was £570,535 giving an average fine, per business, of £895.

This compares to the same period in 2018/19 when 490 FFI fines were issued in agriculture for a total of £300,440 – an average value of £613.

#### **ABOUT VULCAN INSPECTION SERVICES**

Your safety, our priority.

At Vulcan Inspection Services, we're proud to be an independent, leading supplier of specialist end-to-end risk management services which, in partnership with NFU Mutual, we provide to our customers in the agricultural sector and beyond.

We work with thousands of farmers every year to help them maintain their critical equipment and keep the agricultural industry moving. As our customer, you can rest assured that your assets, equipment, and the safety of your people are in good hands.

For more information on our services and to schedule inspections of your plant and equipment, please visit [vulcaninspectionsservices.co.uk](https://vulcaninspectionsservices.co.uk) or contact **Melissa Boyes, Account Director**, at **07795 665 647**.

