

Workshop Equipment and Compressed Air

Tyre machines, presses, grinders and the compressor nobody has examined

Scope and limitations — read before use

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1. Compressed air and the pressure system

An air receiver is a pressure system. Under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 it requires a WRITTEN SCHEME OF EXAMINATION drawn up by a competent person, and examination in accordance with that scheme. This is one of the most commonly missing documents in a small garage, and a failed receiver is an explosion, not a leak.

- Written scheme of examination in place and available.
- Examinations carried out to the scheme, with reports kept.
- Safety valve fitted, in date and not tampered with or painted over.
- Pressure gauge working and readable.
- Automatic drain, or a documented routine for draining condensate — water corrodes the receiver from the inside where you cannot see it.
- Hoses and couplings in good condition, correctly rated, whip checks fitted where appropriate.
- NEVER use compressed air to blow down clothing, benches or yourself. It drives dust into the lungs and air can be forced into the body causing fatal embolism.
- Air line pressure limited for cleaning tasks where those are unavoidable.

2. Tyre bays — the specific killer

An exploding tyre and wheel assembly releases enough energy to kill. Split rim and lock ring wheels on commercial vehicles are especially dangerous.

- Inflate multi-piece or split rim wheels inside a purpose-made inflation cage, always.
- Stand out of the trajectory during inflation. Use a clip-on connector and a remote gauge so nobody is standing over the wheel.
- Inspect the rim for damage, corrosion and correct assembly before inflating.
- Never re-inflate a tyre that has been run flat without first removing and inspecting it — the structure may be destroyed.
- Never exceed the rated pressure to seat a bead, and never use flammable aerosols to seat a bead. People have been killed doing that.
- Only trained people work on commercial split rims. It is a specialist task.

3. Other workshop equipment under PUWER

Equipment	Main hazard	Controls
Bench grinder and abrasive wheels	Wheel bursting, eye injury, entanglement	Only trained and appointed people mount wheels. Correct speed rating, guards, tool rest set close, eye protection. See the PHW Abrasive Wheels pack.
Hydraulic press	Ejected components under enormous force	Guarding or screen, correct tooling, nobody in the line of fire, eye protection.
Welding equipment	Burns, fume, arc eye, fire	LEV or extraction, screens to protect others, correct PPE, hot work controls, fire watch.
Parts washer and solvent tank	Skin and respiratory exposure, fire	COSHH assessment, lid kept closed, gloves, ventilation, no smoking.
Battery charging	Hydrogen gas, acid burns	Ventilated area, no ignition sources, eye protection and gloves, eyewash available.
Engine hoist and crane	Dropped load	LOLER thorough examination, rated slings inspected, nobody under the load.
Vehicle exhaust extraction	Carbon monoxide poisoning	Extraction connected and used every time an engine runs indoors. See GAR-03.
Brake lathes, sanders, drills	Entanglement, dust, vibration	Guards, no loose clothing or gloves near rotating parts, dust control.

4. Equipment register

Equipment	ID	PUWER inspection	Next due	LOLER / PSSR examination	Next due	Condition

Assessed by	Signature	Date	Review date