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**Statutory Inspections aka Thorough Examinations**

**Introduction**

There are statutory requirements under 4 pieces of legislation: LOLER; PUWER; PSSR; and COSHH\* requiring thorough examinations of equipment such as:

* passenger and goods lifts,
* hoist and the associated slings for lifting people
* lifting machines and tackle,
* pressure systems – steam boilers, espresso machines
* local exhaust ventilation
* fume cupboards

These inspections are not negotiable. They are an essential part of ensuring the safety of the work equipment. They are in addition to, and entirely separate from, any inspections carried out as part of a preventive maintenance scheme or scheduled service.

It is essential that the inspections are carried out within the timescales laid down by law. If they are not, the piece of equipment concerned must be taken out of use until the inspection can be completed.

**Managers responsibilities**

The primary duty to ensure statutory inspections take place rests with the responsible manager, i.e. the premise or service manager. However, PSG will arrange for these to be carried out by a competent engineer, often from an Insurance company or consulting engineers. Records of these inspections will be kept on the Tech Forge (TF) Cloud database.

Managers must:

* Understand which equipment under their control requires thorough inspection and the required interval for inspection.
* Ensure that the equipment can be accessed by the competent person to carry out the inspection.
* Liaise with the competent person, when they are on site to carry out the inspection, or nominate another member of staff to do this.

The inspection will involve:

* 1. A visual inspection to ascertain if there are any defects or weaknesses in the equipment (checking for defects such as metal fatigue, cracks, fissures, wear corrosion or defects which might affect the safe working load of the equipment, if applicable)
  2. A test of normal operating conditions to identify any failings in operation.
* Ensure that any significant defects requiring immediate attention are acted upon. This may involve taking the equipment out of use until the necessary work can be done. The competent person will notify these verbally to the manager/nominated contact at the time of the inspection; will follow this up with a written report; and, may also notify the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), as required by law.
* Ensure that any other recommended actions are completed as detailed in the competent persons report.
* Know how to access the records of inspections on TF Cloud.

Failure to carry out statutory inspections is not only an offence it can also have catastrophic consequences, e.g. it could result in the over pressure of the boiler unit in an espresso machine which could injure several people in a cafe.

Insurance/engineering companies have no legal responsibility for ensuring that these inspections are carried out at the intervals required by law; this is the responsibility of the equipment owner.

**Examples of types of equipment requiring inspection and the likely timescales**

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| **Equipment** | **Timescale** |
| Lifting equipment and any associated accessories used to lift people, e.g. slings and hoist tracks. | Every 6 months or in accordance with a written examination scheme. |
| Lifting accessories, e.g. slings | Every 6 months or in accordance with a written examination scheme. |
| All other lifting equipment | Every 12 months or in accordance with a written examination scheme |
| Local Exhaust Ventilation | At least once every 14 months |
| Fume Cupboards | At least once every 14 months |
| Pressure systems such as steam boilers, pressure cookers, compressed air receivers over a certain size, electrically heated espresso machines, LPG storage systems supplying fuel for heating in a workplace. | In accordance with a written scheme of examination |

\* LOLER - Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998;

PUWER - Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998;

PSSR - Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000;

COSHH - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health 2002