

# Better Safe than Sunk

## Plant Safety – Easier than you think?

For the average business, the number of Rules and Regulations governing the checking of lifting, pressure or processing machinery can feel daunting.

It's natural to want to skip the odd check, but it's also very dangerous – as one skipped check could sink your whole business. Look at the possible consequences once an accident occurs.

- Fines.
- Prosecution of directors - even corporate manslaughter charges.
- Your insurer has to meet employees' claims with no chance of defence.
- Prohibitive rises in the cost of insurance - or no insurance at all.
- Invalidation of your existing cover leaving you to meet any claim or cost of damage yourself.

Whichever way you look at it, you're exposed.

So do I have to spend all my time checking?

It's not quite that bad. Statutory requirements as to the frequency of checks has given way to a less stringent, risk-based approach, so the period between inspections can be longer for infrequently-used equipment. For larger businesses with a plant register, a plant manager and strong control systems this may be useful but, for most, a more prescriptive approach means less chance of error. The statutory inspection column (shown on the following page) indicates which plant and equipment needs checking and the recommended frequency. Unfortunately the Law is constantly changing which can mean even the most diligent small business could still fall short.

### A safer alternative

Outside independent examination lets you get on with business without the trouble of making endless checks yourself.

Since the industrial revolution insurers have always been major players in the inspection and checking of plant and equipment. Today, three or four major specialist companies carry out most of the work. They offer national coverage and all the advantages of economies of scale. As your broker, with knowledge of your needs and existing insurances, we're perfectly placed to arrange this service. We'll obtain tenders on your behalf, make supplier recommendations and arrange it so that all inspections dovetail precisely with your existing insurance programme.

### Need to know more?

For more information contact Colin Bailey or Andrew Milverton on 0118 940 6175 at Cassey Miller James today.

Details of our offices and telephone numbers can be found on our website at [www.cmj.co.uk](http://www.cmj.co.uk)



## Statutory inspections: frequency

Lifting equipment Inspections are required by Statute within the specified period unless a Written Scheme of Examination states otherwise:

<b>Escalators:</b>	every 6 or 12 months
<b>Builders hoists:</b>	every 6 months
<b>Cranes and lifting machinery:</b>	every 12 months reducing to every 6 months dependant on attachments, e.g. cages
<b>Excavators:</b>	every 12 months
<b>Forklift trucks:</b>	every 12 months reducing to every 6 months dependant on attachments, e.g. cages
<b>Goods lifts and hoists:</b>	every 12 months
<b>Passenger lifts:</b>	every 6 months
<b>Lifting accessories:</b>	e.g. tackles every 6 months
<b>Lorry loader cranes:</b>	every 12 months
<b>Motor vehicle lifting tables:</b>	every 6 months

## Pressure systems

Inspections required by Statute; frequencies are recommended and can be varied by usage or risk assessment:

**Air pressure plant:** 26 months although client can elect for more frequent inspections if required

**Hot water boilers (100°C and over):** every 14 months

**Refrigeration and air conditioning:** every 26 months although client can elect for more frequent inspections, e.g. 12 months

**Steam boilers and ovens:** 12 months and this will include Italian type coffee machines if the counter boiler heats to 100°C

**Steam pressure vessels:** every 26 months although client can elect for more frequent inspections e.g. 12 months

**Other pressure systems:** every 26 months although client can elect for more frequent inspections e.g. 12 months

## Power presses and process machinery

**Inspections required by Statute:**

**Power presses and press brakes:** with fixed guard every 12 months but with removable guard every 12 months

**Power presses with fixed guards or enclosed tools:** every 12 months

## Local exhaust ventilation

**Inspections required by Statute:**

**Dust extraction:** every 14 months, client can opt for more frequent inspections e.g. every 12 months  
Fume and vapour extraction: every 14 months, however client can opt for more frequent inspections e.g. every 12 months

**Shot blast units:** every 6 months