

Pressure Systems Policy

The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 are concerned with equipment or systems which contain steam at any pressure, gases which exert a pressure in excess of 0.5 bar above atmospheric pressure or fluids, which may be mixtures of liquids, gases and vapours where the gas or vapour phase may exert a pressure in excess of 0.5 bar above atmospheric pressure. This could include, but would not be limited to, items such as compressors, air receivers, autoclaves, boilers and steam heating systems, pressure cookers and steamers, coffee machines and process plant and equipment. The regulations set minimum standards for the prevention of serious injury from the hazard of stored energy, as a result of the failure of a pressure system or one of its component parts.

This Policy applies to and within all buildings across the University's campuses, including Gibbet Hill, Westwood and Wellesbourne. This Policy is supported by arrangements, instructions, and guidance on the management of Pressure Systems, which are available on the University's Health and Safety web pages.

Under the provisions of Regulation 26, Safety Regulations and associated University Health and Safety Policy document, it is the duty of all staff, students and others working in the University to comply with this Policy, together with any other instructions, rules and guidance that may apply.

Core Principles

1. Each department where pressure systems are operated must identify a competent person with the necessary knowledge and skills.
2. All systems and equipment used within any department must be risk assessed, and the risk assessment process must identify any items or systems to which the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations could potentially apply: the manufacturers operating and safety instructions and safety certification should help in this process.
3. Steps must be taken to ensure that such equipment is safe and suitable, free from latent defects and is fitted with the appropriate protective devices: the findings of risk assessments must be available to anyone who might use the equipment.
4. The operating conditions of the equipment/system must be documented, including the characteristics of the relevant fluid in the system and the safe operating limits of the equipment.
5. Any protective devices, such as safety valves, bursting discs and electronic appliances, must be maintained in good working order at all times and adjusted to their correct settings.
6. Suitable maintenance, including a whole-system maintenance programme that considers factors such as age, uses and the environment, should be identified, must be detailed in a written scheme of examination where necessary, and that scheme be followed.
7. Where statutory inspection of pressure system is required the item should be entered into the Crimson system (available through the Estates webpages) so that arrangements for qualified inspectors to inspect the equipment or systems can be made: such inspections would typically need to be repeated every 12 months.



8. Steps must be taken to ensure that anybody who operates, installs, maintains, repairs, inspects or tests pressure equipment has the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out their job safely: refresher training should be included.

Responsibilities

Heads of Departments are responsible for the implementation of this Policy with regard to pressure systems within their respective departments and for ensuring that such equipment is maintained (either by the Estates Office, a designated competent member of staff within the department or by an approved third party) and that risk assessments, written schemes and inspection records are created and maintained.

The Director of Estates, with support of the Estates Office Risk and Compliance Manager and the University’s Insurance Manager, is responsible for the provision and upkeep of the Crimson system and associated services of the Zurich engineering inspectors.

All staff within departments must comply with this Policy and the associated arrangements, instructions and guidance.

The Director of Health and Safety is responsible for advising on the standards and regulations that must be achieved in order to meet legal requirements; for keeping the University’s Health and Safety website up to date with the related policy documents; and for ensuring that spot checks and audits are carried out to provide assurance that activities are being carried out in compliance with this Policy.

Review

This policy will be reviewed when any legal requirements change or at least once every three years.

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