



Safety in Tyre & Exhaust Centres

Tyre and exhaust centres can be extremely hazardous places. The following details highlight some of the hazards and risks that may exist and the steps that you can take to prevent accidents. The list is by no means exhaustive, but can be used as a starting point in assisting you to complete the blank risk assessment form contained in this pack.

Main Types of Risk

Slips, trips and falls

Falls may be caused by spillages of oil and water and also by poor housekeeping, e.g. trailing cables and airlines, or tyres, tubes etc. being improperly stored.

Fumes

Vehicle exhaust fumes are toxic.

Welding

Welding operations can give rise to risks such as burns, eye damage from metal fragments, sparks etc., and fire damage due to accidental ignition.

Lifting Equipment

Misuse or failure of equipment such as jacks and lifting devices can lead to extremely serious injuries and even death.

Working with Wheels and Tyres

Air blasts from over inflation of car tyres can lead to very serious injuries.

Managing the Risk

- Keep all floors, passages, steps and gangways free from obstruction.
- Clean up spillages immediately.
- Provide sufficient electrical socket outlets to avoid trailing cables.
- Ensure all parts of the premises are well lit.

- Do not run vehicle engines indoors for prolonged periods unless a ventilation system is provided to extract exhaust fumes.

- Ensure all oxyacetylene equipment has a flashback flame arrestor and a non return valve.
- Ensure visual pressure gauges/volume indicators are fitted.
- Inspect welding equipment regularly (particularly the welding tip and hosing) for signs of wear.
- Secure all acetylene cylinders in the upright position and protect from damage in racks or trolleys.
- Train staff in safe working procedures and provide suitable protective equipment such as goggles, gloves and overalls.
- Change cylinders away from sources of ignition.

- Use axle props to support raised vehicles, never let anyone work beneath a vehicle supported only by a jack or jacks.
- Ensure appropriate pins are used in props.
- Ensure all lifting devices are marked with the maximum safe working load and that these loads are not exceeded.
- Ensure that a periodic thorough examination of all lifting devices is carried out by a competent person regularly and that any defects are repaired immediately.
- Inspection pits should be phased out in favour of purpose built vehicle lifts.

- Raise and support vehicles safely.
- Remove valve core to deflate tyres.
- Inflate tyres to correct pressure (see suppliers instructions).
- Use an air line with a dead man's handle.
- Never weld or flame cut a wheel to which a tyre is fitted.
- Train staff in good lifting techniques.





Split - Rim Wheels

Fortunately this type of wheel is now becoming less common. However work with such wheels is one of the most hazardous activities in this type of business due to the fact that they are constructed of several components and the higher pressures involved.

- Before removing any divided wheel from a vehicle ensure it is completely deflated by removing the valve core.
- Inflation should only take place in a strong, firmly secured cage, or using a horizontal stool and associated clamping mechanism.

Wheel Balancing

Contact with rotating wheels during wheel balancing may cause friction burns, entanglement etc.

- Check for loose stones, weights etc. before commencing.
- Ensure the machine is fitted with a fully interlocked cover and that the drive shafts and rotating road wheels are properly guarded.

Bead Breaker

Operatives fingers could become trapped in this machine

- Position this machine away from thoroughfares in an unobstructed, tidy and well lit workspace.

Asbestos Hazards

Although asbestos materials are not used so commonly today, they can still be found in brake and clutch linings. Dust may be created when working with these parts which could be harmful if inhaled.

- Never blow dust from brake drums or clutch housings using an airline. Use wet rags instead.
- Ensure the area is well ventilated.

Compressed Air

Injuries, occasionally fatal, have been caused by accidental or deliberate injection into the body. Fingers could also become trapped in the drive or other moving parts of the compressor

- Ensure water traps are provided in all compressed air supply lines.
- Have the compressor examined regularly by a competent person.
- Never use compressed air to clean up.
- Ban horseplay with compressed air.
- Ensure the pressure rating of hand tools is compatible with that of the supply line.
- Ensure adequate guarding to the drive and other moving parts of the compressor.
- Locate compressor to minimise the level of noise to which staff are exposed.

Battery Charging

During and after charging, batteries give off hydrogen, an easily ignited and explosive gas

- Remove batteries from vehicles and charge in a well ventilated area.
- Switch off battery charger before connecting or disconnecting.
- Follow manufacturers instructions.

Electrical Safety

Electrical shock or fire can be caused by poor electrical safety

- Ensure that the electrical system and equipment is checked regularly and faults repaired immediately.
- Protect cables against mechanical damage.
- Ensure all electrical equipment used outdoors is supplied through a circuit protected by a 30mA RCD and that it is suitable for outdoor use

Unauthorised Access

Customers may be exposed to hazardous substances, dangerous equipment etc., if permitted access to work areas.

- Do not allow customers to enter workshops unless under supervision.

■ For Further Information:

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Health and Safety Executive
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