

An Overview of Work Equipment

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) require that equipment provided for use at work is:

- suitable for the intended use;
- safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case;
- used only by people who have received adequate information, instruction and training; and
- accompanied by suitable safety measures, e.g. protective devices, markings, warnings.

Generally, any equipment which is used by an employee at work is covered, for example hammers, knives, ladders, drilling machines, power presses, circular saws, photocopiers, lifting equipment (including lifts), dumper trucks and motor vehicles. Similarly, if employees provide their own equipment, it too will be covered by PUWER and the Council will need to make sure it complies with the expected standard.

There is a need to undertake an assessment of the hazards generated by the equipment before it is first used in the workplace. Employees need to consider the findings of the risk assessment and the provided training when using work equipment to ensure they do not endanger themselves or others.

All employees' have a responsibility to:

- report defects, failures, hazards or risks that may arise from the use of any work equipment.
- avoid any acts or emissions that may endanger themselves or others in the use of any work equipment.
- ensure that they are familiar with any risk assessments, which may have been undertaken in relation to work equipment.
- participate in information, instruction and training as required.
- use any relevant safe working procedures.
- not use work equipment without training and authorisation from a competent person.

Other Resources

AS8 – Work Equipment

AS4 – General Risk Assessment