



SECTION 9

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT



SECTION 9 - PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

When we talk about plant, we do not mean green, living plants. We mean mechanical plant, as in machinery.

Work equipment is any machinery, appliance, apparatus, tool or installation for use at work. This involves equipment which employees (or self-employed people) provide for their own use at work.

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9.2 Provisions and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)

Plant and equipment fall under PUWER, the **P**lant and **U**se of **E**quipment Regulations 1998.

Generally, any equipment which is used by an employee at work is covered, for example photocopiers, the electronic fill, hair dressing kit etc.

If you allow employees to provide their own equipment then it will also be covered by PUWER and you will need to make sure it complies.

Examples of uses of equipment which are covered by the Regulations include starting or stopping the equipment, repairing, modifying, maintaining, servicing, cleaning and transporting.

You must ensure that the work equipment you provide meets the requirements of PUWER. You should ensure that it is:

- **suitable** for use, and for the purpose and conditions in which it is to be used;
- **maintained** in a safe condition for use so that people's health and safety is not at risk
- **inspected**, in certain circumstances, to ensure that it is and continues to be safe for use. Any inspection should be carried out by a competent person (this could be an employee if they have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to perform the task) and a record kept until the next inspection.

9.3 Plant and work equipment in the hair industry

Examples of plant in the Hair industry include:

- air conditioning systems
- air conditioning units
- autoclaves
- blow dryers
- cosmetic and tattoo equipment
- electrical styling equipment
- electric shaver and hair clippers
- electrolysis machines
- gloves

- hair dryers (wall, portable and hand)
- lasers
- local exhaust workstations
- IPL Machines
- perm and colour accelerators (roller balls)
- safety glasses/aprons and masks
- scissors
- water heaters

Factors to consider when purchasing or obtaining plant include:

- the plant has been constructed, manufactured and installed to an acceptable standard
- the equipment satisfactorily performs its function
- noise levels are not a risk to hearing or health
- machinery has adequate testing to show it does the required function
- takes into account the flammability of the products being used

Plant should not obstruct doorways and emergency exits and should also be secured against movement.

the work, your assessment of the risks involved, and the practicability of such measures.

9.4 Control Measures

9.4.1 Isolation

- Turn off and unplug plant before cleaning, maintenance or repair work commences
- Withdraw damaged plant from service and label with an out of service tag until any risks to health and safety have been assessed and controlled

9.4.2 Administrative controls

- Ensure training in the safe use and maintenance of plant has been undertaken
- Provide adequate supervision to workers and other persons
- Make sure plant is operated, serviced, maintained and repaired according to the manufacturers' specifications
- Develop and implement an inspection program for plant

- Keep a record of plant inspection, servicing, maintenance and repair
- Ensure that electrical items have been tested

9.5 Resources

For more information, see

[INDG209 Reducing health risks from the use of ultraviolet \(UV\) tanning equipment](#) (HSE)

[INDG229 Using work equipment safely](#) (HSE)

[INDG291 Providing and using work equipment safely. A brief guide](#) (HSE)

[PUWER 1998 Provision and use of work equipment regulations 1998: Open learning guidance](#) (HSE)

[L22 Safe use of work equipment. Provision and use of work equipment regulations 1998](#) (HSE)