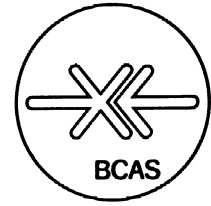


User legislation



Beware of possible prosecution if you purchase non-conforming equipment

Various European Directives affecting manufacturers and suppliers of compressed air equipment have come into force over recent years. Directives affecting the user have also been adopted. In the UK, legislation such as Provision and Use of Equipment Regulations (PUWER) implements these directives, complementing the supply regulations and placing duties on users.

Your attention is drawn to the following:

Section 10 of PUWER - Conformity with Community Requirements

10.1 Every employer shall ensure any item of work equipment provided for use in the premises of the employer complies with any enactment which implements in Great Britain any of the relevant Community directives listed in Schedule I which is applicable to that item of work equipment.

10.3 This regulation applies to items of work equipment provided for use in the premises of the employer for the first time after 31st December 1992.

Section 5 of PUWER - Suitability of Work Equipment

5.2 In selecting work equipment, every employer shall have regard to the working conditions and to the risks to the health and safety of persons which exist in the premises or undertaking in which the work equipment is to be used and any additional risk posed by the use of that work equipment.

This means that users should select the right kind of tool for the job, one that is sufficiently powered and does not expose employees to excessive vibration (for example).

Section 6 of PUWER - Maintenance

6.1 Every employer shall ensure that work equipment is maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

Please note that some cheaper products may be difficult to maintain.

6.2 Every employer shall ensure that where any machinery has a maintenance log, the log is kept up to date.

The above means that if you purchase non-conforming equipment you are liable under this regulation. In addition, you put yourself and your employees at risk by using equipment that does not conform.

Users should check for the CE Mark and that there are adequate instructions for safe installation, use as and maintenance; also that there is (for machinery) a Declaration of Conformity.

Particular care should be taken that the information supplied on noise and vibration is adequate where the emissions are above certain levels.

The Health & Safety Executive regard compliance with PUWER as important, particularly the need for employers to purchase and use only safe work equipment.

BCAS members and in particular distributors who are Registered Charter Holders will provide purchasers with guidance with respect to appropriate legislation.

For further information on legislation affecting compressed air products contact the BCAS.

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