

HS35 Pressure Equipment | Standard Operating Procedure

1. Background information

1.1. Introduction/Purpose

1.1.1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) details the processes for the provision and use of pressure equipment at SOAS University of London.

1.2. Scope

1.2.1. The Pressure Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016 came into force on December 8 2016 and have subsequently been amended by Schedule 24 of The Product Safety and Metrology (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.

1.2.2. These Regulations cover pressure equipment and assemblies with a maximum allowable pressure PS above 0.5 bar.

1.3. Definitions

1.3.1. Pressure equipment - vessels, piping, safety accessories and pressure accessories. This includes elements attached to pressurised parts such as flanges, nozzles, couplings, supports, lifting lugs etc.

1.3.2. Vessel - a housing designed to contain fluids under pressure. This includes its direct attachments to the coupling point connecting it to other equipment. A vessel may be composed of more than one chamber.

1.3.3. Piping - piping components intended to transport fluids when connected for integration into a pressure system. This includes a pipe or system of pipes, tubing, fittings, expansion joints, hoses, or other pressure-bearing components. Heat exchangers consisting of pipes for cooling or heating air are also considered piping.

- 1.3.4. Safety accessories - devices designed to protect pressure equipment against exceeded allowable limits. Such devices consist of direct pressure limitation, such as safety valves and bursting discs, and limiters that activate the means for correction or provide for shutdown and lockouts, including pressure or temperature switches.
- 1.3.5. Pressure accessories - devices with an operational function and pressure-bearing housing.
- 1.3.6. Assembly - several pieces of pressure equipment assembled by a manufacturer to constitute an integrated and functional whole.

1.4. Roles and Responsibilities

- 1.4.1. The HSE is responsible for enforcing the PE(S)R when pressure equipment and assemblies are used in the workplace. Local authorities are responsible when the equipment or assemblies are privately utilised.
- 1.4.2. Conformity Assessment Bodies (Approved Bodies) will carry out the relevant assessments. There is a list of Conformity Assessment Bodies accredited under PE(S)R on the GOV.UK website.

2. Main Content

2.1. Regulations

- 2.1.1. Schedule 2 of PE(S)R details the essential safety requirements (ESR) that qualifying vessels must meet. Additionally, details of how the different products are classified, technical requirements and conformity assessment procedures must be followed.
- 2.1.2. The Office for Product Safety & Standards has produced guidance on the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulations 2016 on GOV.UK.
- 2.1.3. Note: The Regulations do not apply to the assembly of pressure equipment on the site and are under the user's responsibility regarding industrial installations. The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000, which contain 'in use' provisions, will apply in such cases.
- 2.1.4. Pressure Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016 on legislation.gov.uk.

- Legislation resources
- Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR)
- Pressure Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016
- The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009
- Simple Pressure Vessels (Safety) Regulations 2016

2.1.5. These regulations do not apply to:

- Excluded pressure equipment and assemblies (specified in Schedule 1 to PE(S)R).
- Pressure equipment and assemblies placed on the market before 8 December 2016.
- Pressure equipment or assemblies placed on the market on or before 29 May 2002 if they comply with the safety provisions brought into force in the UK on 29 November 1999.
- The assembly of pressure equipment on the site is under the responsibility of a user who is not the manufacturer.