

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR (MVR)

(See also: [Tyre & Exhaust Fitting\(84\)](#); [Petrol and Petrol Filling Stations\(60\)](#); [COSHH\(19\)](#); [Respiratory Sensitisers\(67\)](#); [Asbestos\(8\)](#); [Carcinogens\(12\)](#); [Pressure Systems etc.\(62\)](#))

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INTRODUCTION

Every year there are over 2000 accidents in garages and vehicle repair workshops reported to enforcing authorities. Many more may go unreported. Accidents may range from a high number of slips, trips and falls (some of which may result in serious injury) to accidents arising from working on, or moving, vehicles. There is also widespread potential for work-related ill health from substances used in MVR premises. The booklet HS(G)67, 'Health and Safety in Motor Vehicle Repair' contains extensive safety advice regarding MVR premises, which is summarised/outlined in the following sections.

SERVICING & MECHANICAL REPAIR

- 1. Lifting equipment** - safety features; marking; proper use; maintenance and inspection/examination. A summary of the statutory examination of lifting equipment is as follows:-

Plant	Test & Thorough Examination Prior to Use	Certificate of Test & Examination	Periodic Thorough Examination
Chains, ropes & lifting tackle	YES (except for fibre rope and fibre rope sling)	YES, specifying safe working load	At least every 6 months
Hoists & Lifts	NO	NO	At least every 6 months if used to lift people (12 months if not), or in accordance with a scheme drawn up by a competent person.
Cranes and other lifting machines	YES	YES, specifying safe working load	At least every 14 months

- 2. Electrical Safety**

- (a) Fixed electrical system** - siting of switchgear; protective devices; labelling of switches; protection of wiring; to be 1m above floor level; lighting; periodic inspection (5 yearly recommended)

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- (b) Handlamps** - 'all-insulated' or 'double insulated'; robust; reduced voltage; not to be used in inspection pits or paint spraying areas unless protected against ignition of highly flammable liquids.
- (c) Portable electrical tools** - industrial type plugs and sockets; suitable construction of wiring/cabling; reduced voltage (but note: this doesn't protect against petrol ignition); maintenance (competent person, appropriate frequency, records to be kept)
- 3. Compressed Air** -written scheme of examination required for air receivers etc.; regular examination by competent person; dangers of 'horseplay'.
- 4. Vehicle inspection pits** - suitable electrical equipment (potentially explosive atmosphere); fencing/ boarding of pit when not in use; lighting and marking of edges; restriction of access; smoking prohibition.
- 5. Petrol fires** - any necessary removal of petrol to be done preferably in the open air, with battery disconnected and possible sources of ignition removed; use of a fuel retriever to minimise spillage; no hot work on tank.
- 6. Brake and clutch linings** - potential hazard from asbestos containing products; suitable precautions required and safe systems of work.
- 7. Wheels and tyres** - hazards from over inflation, friction burns and welding of wheels (Dealt with in Tyre and Exhaust Fitting element of this manual).
- 8. Batteries and chargers** - (Dealt with in detail in Battery Charging element of this manual)
- 9. Used engine oils** - potential for dermatitis and skin disorders including cancer; avoid contact; use of protective clothing, good personal hygiene (see Carcinogens element of this manual)
- 10. Engine running** -recommendation that exhaust extraction equipment is used to prevent exposure to hazardous substances in poorly ventilated areas.
- 11. Rolling roads/brake testing** - 'dead mans' controls; access controlled guarding; maintenance and safe system of working.
- 12. Vehicle valeting** - hazardous substances (toxic/ flammable solvents); COSHH assessment; ventilation; protective clothing.

- 13. Steam and water pressure cleaners** - reduced voltage; fixed cabling where possible; earth continuity/use of RCD's; maintenance, testing and repair procedures and documentation; eye protection.

BODY REPAIR

- 1. Flame cutting and welding** - precautions against electric shock and u/v radiation; local exhaust ventilation wherever possible; fire prevention actions; storage and use of flammable gas cylinders.
- 2. Noise and vibration** - if more than 85 dB(A) daily exposure to noise, a noise assessment is required and ear protection to be provided; if more than 90 dB(A) further action required to reduce noise and exposure is required; acoustic partitioning; information, instruction and training; job rotation possible?
- 3. Body filling and preparation** - COSHH assessments; separate body filling and preparation area, preferably in a mechanically ventilated booth; dust minimisation; respiratory protective equipment and protective clothing.

PAINTING

- 1. General** - no more than 50 litres for immediate use in workplace (in metal cupboard), remainder in fire-resisting store; good housekeeping; exclude sources of ignition; explosion protection lighting and electrical equipment within 2m of mixing area; ventilation.
- 2. Paint mixing** - proprietary systems will minimise vapours and storage quantities; fire and explosion precautions.
- 3. Paints containing isocyanates** - irritant and may cause asthma; COSHH assessment; ventilation; protective clothing and respiratory protective equipment.
- 4. Paints and thinners** - inhalation hazard; COSHH assessment etc; compressed airline breathing apparatus or air fed equipment may be suitable for most jobs; segregation; ventilation; personal protection; spray only in enclosures or booths or in controlled spray spaces; advice on spraying in a single room workshop also provided.
- 5. Maintenance etc. of ventilation** - regular examination and testing of all engineering controls (i.e. local exhaust ventilation) every 14 months; examination and test of respiratory protective equipment; records to be kept.

CHECKLIST - MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR

1. Have you carried out relevant risk assessments?
i.e.
 - Use of lifting equipment? YES NO
 - Electricity at work? YES NO
 - Compressed air/pressure vessels? YES NO
 - Use of vehicle inspection pits? YES NO
 - Flammable liquids? YES NO
 - Possible exposure to asbestos - containing car parts? YES NO
 - Work on wheels and tyres? YES NO
 - Battery charging? YES NO
 - Use of steam/water pressure cleaners? YES NO
 - Use of other MVR related equipment? YES NO
 - Flame cutting and welding? YES NO
 - Painting? YES NO

2. Have you carried out relevant COSHH assessments?
i.e.
 - Used engine oils? YES NO
 - Exhaust gases? YES NO
 - Vehicle valeting? YES NO
 - Body filling and preparation? YES NO
 - Painting? YES NO

3. Have you established whether noise levels are such as to require further action? YES NO

4. Have you informed, instructed and trained your employees, as necessary, regarding hazards and precautions etc. at your premises? YES NO

REFERENCES/FURTHER DETAILS

- *1. Health and Safety in Motor Vehicle Repair (HS(G)67)
ISBN 0-7176-0483-7 (HSE)
- *2. Booklet HSG187: Control of Diesel Engine Exhaust Emissions in the Workplace. (HSE)(ISBN 0-7176 1662 2)(£6.95)
3. Information Pages on HSE's website:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/mvr/>

Electrical

- *3. HSE GN(PM)37 - Electrical installations in Motor Vehicle Repair Premises ISBN 0 11 883569 6
- *4. HSE GN(PM)38: Selection and Use of Electric Handlamps ISBN 0 11 883582 3
- *5. HSE HS(G)22: Electrical apparatus for use in potentially explosive atmospheres ISBN 0 11 883746 X

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- *6. HSE GN(GS)37: Flexible leads, plugs, sockets etc
ISBN 0 11 883519 X
- *7. HSE GN(PM)32: The Safe Use of Portable Electrical
Apparatus ISBN 0 11 883563 7
- **8. HSE IND(G)89(L)Rev: Guidance for Small Businesses on
Electricity at work

Petrol

- **9. IND (G)50(L) Rev: Safe Use of Petrol in Garages (HSE).
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg50.htm

Compressed Air

- *10. HSE HS(G)39 Rev: Compressed Air Safety ISBN 0 11
885582 4

Brake and Clutch Linings

- *11. HSE - IND(S)14(P) Asbestos alert; beware garage dust
(poster)
- *12. HSE - IND(G)17(L) Rev: Asbestos and you (leaflet)

Wheels and Tyres

- *13. HSE HS(G)62 Health and Safety in tyre and exhaust fitting
premises
- *14. SHW428 Inflation of tyres and removal of wheels
(cautionary notice) ISBN 0 11 880856 7

Vehicle Valeting

- *15. HSE GN(EH)5: Trichloroethylene: health and safety
precautions ISBN 0 11 883606 4

Steam and Water Pressure Cleaner

- *16. HSE GN(PM)29: Electrical hazards from steam/water
pressure cleaners ISBN 0 11 883538 6
- **17. Leaflet IND(G)68L(Rev) 'Do you use a steam/water
pressure cleaner? You could be in for a shock!' (HSE).
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg68.pdf

Flame Cutting and Welding

- *18. HSE GN(PM)64: Electrical Safety in arc welding
ISBN 0 11 8839381
- *19. HSE GN(MS)15: Welding ISBN 0 11 8831844
- *20. HSE Booklet No. 50: Welding and flamecutting using
compressed gases ISBN 0 11 883080 5

Noise

- *21. Booklet Guidance on Regulation - Noise at Work (Guides 1
- 2) ISBN 0 11 8855123 (HSE)
- *22. L3 Noise Assessment, information and control (Noise
Guides 3 - 8) ISBN 0 11 885430 5 (HSE)

Body Filling and Preparation

- *23. GN EH26: Occupational skin diseases - health and safety precautions ISBN 0 11 883374 X (HSE)
- *24. GN EH44: Dust in the Workplace - general principles of protection ISBN 0 11 883598 X (HSE)
- *25. HSE HS(G)37: An introduction to local exhaust ventilation ISBN 0 11 883954 3
- *26. MS(B)6: Save Your Skin - occupational contact dermatitis (HSE)
- *27. HSE HS(G)53: Respiratory protective equipment: a practical guide for users ISBN 0 11 885522 0

Painting

- *28. HS(G)51: Storage of flammable liquids in containers ISBN 0 11 885533 6 (HSE)
- *29. GN:MS8: Isocyanates: medical surveillance ISBN 0 11 883565 3 (HSE)
- *30. GN:EH9: Spraying of highly flammable liquids ISBN 0 11 883034 1 (HSE)
- *31. GN EH16: Isocyanates: toxic hazards and precautions ISBN 0 11 883581 5 (HSE)
- *32. GN PM25: Vehicle finishing units: fire and explosion hazards ISBN 0 11 883382 0 (HSE)
- *33. Engineering Sheet No. 18 : Isocyanates - health surveillance in motor vehicle repair (HSE)

Miscellaneous

- *34. L5 Approved Codes of Practice: Control of substances hazardous to health ISBN 0 11 885468 2 (HSE)
- *35. SHW397: Effects of mineral oil on the skin (cautionary notice) ISBN 0 11 883086 4

* Available to view by prior arrangement at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Environmental Health Services, Council House, Coton Road, Nuneaton. CV11 5AA

** Free copy available from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council at the above address.