

PUWER at a glance

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998

REGULATIONS 4 TO 11

Core duties

What every piece of work equipment needs.



Suitable

Right for the work and the place it is used



Maintained

In good working order and repair



Inspected

After installation, or where wear could cause danger



Guarded

Or stopped before anyone reaches the danger

Also required

- Training and instructions for everyone who uses or supervises it
- Start and stop controls, and emergency stops where needed
- A way to isolate it from every energy source, and stability where safety needs it
- Maintenance done with it shut down, or so no one doing it is at risk

ON SITE

Before you use it

Checks for each job, based on PUWER and HSE guidance.



Right for the job

Suits the task and where it is used.



In good repair

No damage or missing parts.



Guards fitted

Guards and protection devices work.



Controls work

Stops and emergency stops tested.



Inspection in date

Last inspection in date, where needed.



User trained

Trained on this equipment.



Equipment stable

Clamped or set down so it cannot move.



Faults reported

Faulty items tagged out and reported.

OFTEN MISREAD

Common mix-ups

Points people often get wrong.

Lifting equipment counts too

LOLER examination covers the lifting parts. Brakes, lights and the rest still need PUWER checks.

Inspection is set by risk

No fixed interval. A competent person sets it from how the equipment deteriorates.

Hired equipment needs evidence

It arrives with proof of its last inspection, where one is needed.

Older equipment still counts

Every piece of equipment in use must meet PUWER, however old.

IN PRACTICE

On a machine move

Machine skates

Work equipment under PUWER, so they must suit the load and be in good repair.

Jacks

Lifting equipment, so LOLER applies as well as PUWER.

Winching

A machine winched over the floor without lifting comes under PUWER alone.

Lift trucks

Fork-lifts and telehandlers: LOLER, plus PUWER and its mobile equipment duties.

Source: Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/2306) and HSE's Approved Code of Practice L22. Applies in Great Britain. Northern Ireland: PUWER (NI) 1999, enforced by HSENI and the district councils. **Last reviewed 1 October 2026.** A summary, not the law itself.

