

GENERATORS AND COMPRESSORS

THE LAW

PUWER Regulations 1998
Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000

HASAWA 1974

GUIDANCE

Visually inspect the generator or compressor before use for signs of damage, wear or leaks

Ensure appropriate guarding is in place and on/off switch works before using equipment

Check all fittings are securely connected on compressor prior to being pressurised. And check for air leaks as pressure builds

Only use as per directions in User Manual

Allow to cool before refuelling and refuel using a funnel

Have a fire extinguisher to hand

Do not use in a restricted space

Stop and allow to cool before conducting maintenance

Do not touch any hot surfaces

Drain the air tank from a compressor at the end of the shift.

WHAT ARE GENERATORS AND COMPRESSORS?

A diesel or petrol generator is the combination of a diesel/petrol engine with an electric generator (often an alternator) to generate electrical energy. Diesel/petrol generators are used in places without connection to a power grid, or as emergency grid fails. An air compressor is a device that converts power (using an electric motor, diesel or petrol engine, etc.) into potential energy stored in pressurized air. An air compressor forces more and more air into a storage tank, increasing the pressure. When tank pressure reaches its upper limit the air compressor shuts off. The compressed air, then, is held in the tank until called into use.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

There are a number of risks associated with using portable generators or compressors such as:

- Contact with running equipment resulting burns, electric shock or entanglement and being drawn in to the machine
- Leaking fuel can lead to fires or slips and falls due to slippery or greasy surfaces
- Continuous noise from the engine can lead to hearing damage
- Fire can be a risk from the engine overheating or sparking near combustible materials or materials being stood against the compressor or generator or spillages when refueling
- Trailing cables and hoses can present a trip Hazard
- If used in confined unventilated areas inhalation of exhaust fumes can potentially have deadly consequences
- Pressure tank could rupture on a compressor if it is over pressurised or damaged and leaking
- Manual handling injuries can occur if not using the correct technique when starting the motor

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

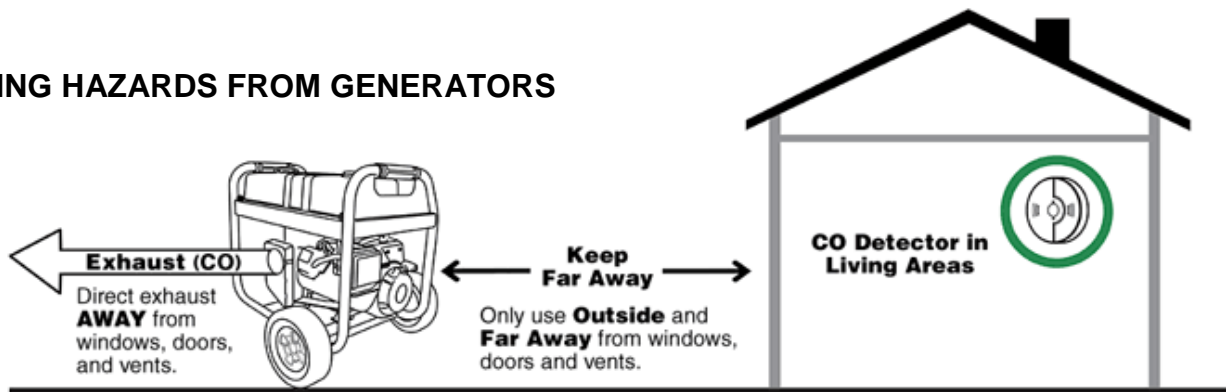
PUWER 1998: An employer must ensure that the work equipment provided meets the requirements of PUWER and that risks created by using the equipment are eliminated where possible or controlled as far as reasonably practicable.

Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000: Sufficient written information should be provided to ensure compliance with the regulations and to prevent danger

No pressure system may be operated unless a written scheme for the periodic examination, by a competent person of specific parts of the system has been provided

FOR FURTHER ADVICE CONTACT YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR

AVOIDING HAZARDS FROM GENERATORS



When connecting appliances to the generator using an extension cord, follow these steps:

- Use heavy-duty extension cords that are specifically designed for outdoor use.
- Make sure the wattage rating for each cord exceeds the total wattage of all appliances connected to it.
- Use extension cords that are long enough to allow the generator to be placed outdoors and far away from windows, doors and vents to the home or to other structures that could be occupied.
- Check that the entire length of each cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three (or four) prongs.
- Protect the cord from getting pinched or crushed, and follow all cord safety labels including any limits on cord length

Be aware of potential Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Symptoms of low-level CO poisoning can be similar to those of common illnesses, such as a cold, flu or food poisoning. These include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Fainting
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness

SPECIFIC HAZARDS FOR COMPRESSORS

