

Management of Pressure Systems Policy

V3.0

April 2026

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Data Protection Act 2018 (UK General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) Legislation.

The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 to ensure that there is a valid legal basis to process personal and sensitive data. The legal basis for processing must be identified and documented before the processing begins. In many cases we may need consent; this must be explicit, informed, and documented. We cannot rely on opt out, it must be opt in.

Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 is applicable to all staff; this includes those working as contractors and providers of services.

For more information about your obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 please see the Information Use Framework Policy or contact the Information Governance Team.

Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust rch-tr.infogov@nhs.net

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document sets out safety responsibilities and advice associated with pressure systems and equipment. Managers are required to incorporate relevant aspects of this document into their divisional/department health and safety arrangements.
- 1.2. Pressure systems are subject to the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and the Trust's Health and Safety Policy (General) and the policy on Work Equipment and should be read in conjunction with this advice.
- 1.3. Failure of a pressure system can lead to serious injury or fatalities. Consolidation of previous legislation evolved into the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR), which deals with the risks created by a release of stored energy should the system fail and details the measures that should be taken to prevent failures and reduce risks.
- 1.4. The Trust attaches the greatest importance to the health, safety and welfare of its Staff and others who may be affected by the Trust's activities. Particular attention is paid to the establishment of a safe system of work in connection with the use, maintenance and inspection of pressure systems and ancillary equipment.
- 1.5. This policy is intended to enable the Trust to meet the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and subordinate legislation including, but not restricted to, the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- 1.6. This version supersedes any previous versions of this document.

2. Purpose of this Policy/Procedure

- 2.1. This policy is Trust-wide and applies to all staff employed by or working within the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust. It covers all pressurised systems and equipment owned, borrowed, or hired by the Trust, whether existing or new.
- 2.1. The aim of this document is to ensure all pressure systems and equipment are provided, maintained and used safely in accordance with standards set out in the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 and other regulations so as to minimise the risk of injury to patients, staff, visitors and others.
- 2.2. It does not cover moving and handling operations as these are covered by the Trust Manual Handling Policy.
- 2.3. The purpose of this document is to:
 - Enable the Trust to ensure that it provides a safe working environment so far as is reasonably practicable.
 - Ensure that the appropriate risk assessments and control measures are in place.

3. Scope

- 3.1. The Trust is committed to ensuring the safety of all persons who undertake work, paid or unpaid, for or with the Trust.
- 3.2. The Trust Board views the statutory obligations in various health and safety legislation as the minimum standard and is committed to exceeding these standards to achieve best practice.
- 3.3. This document is intended to support and further enhance the requirements contained in the Trusts Health and Safety General Policy.
- 3.4. The Trust is committed to ensuring that robust processes for the safe management of pressure systems and operations are maintained throughout the Trust's activities. These processes will include the selection of suitable equipment, maintenance and inspection procedures as well as suitable training for staff involved in the operation of the equipment or task.
- 3.5. This Policy applies to all Trust staff, sites and activities, service users, patients and visitors, employees [including those managed by a third party] and all site owned or operated by the Trust.
- 3.6. Next Paragraph.

4. Definitions/Glossary

- 4.1. For this document, unless otherwise stated specifically the following definitions will apply throughout:
 - **The Trust:** The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust.
 - **Trust sites:** All areas, sites, buildings or premises owned, occupied or controlled by the Trust.
 - **Staff:** All persons who are employed by the Trust whether on permanent or temporary contracts (Written or implied), paid or unpaid, and shall include persons employed through recruitment and employment agency providers to assist the Trust in delivery of services but excluding contractors and third parties undertaking works for or on behalf of the Trust.
 - **Risk assessment:** The careful examination of what could cause harm, and the likelihood of the harm occurring; to decide on precautions to prevent that harm occurring.
 - **Control Measure:** Any measure to reduce the risk in the workplace, e.g. Standard Operating Procedures, mechanical devices, personal protective equipment, training, restricted access zones.
 - **Work Environment:** Any environment where activities are being undertaken for, by or on behalf of the Trust.
 - **Contractors:** Any person employed by or working for a third-party organisation working for or acting on behalf of the Trust.

- **HSE:** Health and Safety Executive
- **PSSR:** Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000
- **PER:** Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999
- **PUWER:** Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1999
- **Pressure Systems:** All plant / systems which contain a relevant fluid or gas.
- **Relevant Fluid or Gas:** Steam (at any pressure), gas under pressure and liquids at or above 0.5 bar gauge (7 psi).

5. Ownership and Responsibilities

5.1. Role of the Chief Executive (Duty Holder)

- 5.1.1. In accordance with the requirements of the Health and Safety General Policy the Chief Executive has overall accountability for the management of all aspects of health and safety including the management of pressure systems and other work equipment and is the Duty Holder for the Trusts.
- 5.1.2. Responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy is delegated throughout the organisational management structure.

5.2. Role of the Trust Board

It is the duty of the Trust Board to take responsibility for the safe undertaking of all aspects of work under their control. Where actions to control risks are beyond the authority of managers and supervisors, Directors must ensure there are adequate arrangements in place for such hazards and risks to be notified to them by the fastest possible means and that they are effectively managed and controlled.

5.3. Role of the Chief Operating Officer (COO)

The COO is the nominated Executive Director with responsibility for health and safety across the organisation.

5.4. Role of the Director of Estates and Facilities (Designated Person)

- 5.4.1. The Director of Estates and Facilities has delegated authority to act as the Designated Person responsible to the Chief Executive for the overall co-ordination and implementation of this document throughout the Trust. The Director of Estates and Facilities, will, where suitable and sufficient resources allow, ensure that:
- 5.4.2. All information regarding the design, construction, examination, operation and maintenance is held and maintained within the Trust.

- 5.4.3. Sufficient resources are allocated to ensure appropriate planned and emergency maintenance of pressure systems, in a timely manner and that a robust program is implemented for scheduled replacement or major overhaul of equipment prior the end of the life expectancy of each piece of equipment.
- 5.4.4. Suitable and sufficient staff within the Estate Operations Department have training, knowledge and experience to the appropriate level to ensure competency in order to act as the competent person(s) on behalf of the Trust.
- 5.4.5. A scheme of inspection is established for every pressure system in accordance with the PSSR.
- 5.4.6. The maximum period for scheduled inspection is set at intervals not greater than the statutory maximum period or that detailed in the Scheme, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.4.7. A robust program of periodic thorough examination of pressure systems is maintained in accordance with the statutory and best practice requirements.
- 5.4.8. Robust maintenance arrangements are established and delivered to ensure the safety and integrity of the system is upheld.
- 5.4.9. Suitable provision is made to ensure that in the event of any pressure system or component thereof fails a periodic or thorough inspection that equipment is isolated, until re-inspected and re-certified, and robust contingency strategy is implemented.
- 5.4.10. Where a shortfall in resources is identified ensure that this is escalated as appropriate.

5.5. Role of the Head of Estates

- 5.5.1. The Head of Estates is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and record keeping pressure systems and equipment. They will:
- 5.5.2. Ensure that maintenance and inspection scheme is developed and maintained for each pressure system.
- 5.5.3. Provide technical advice on the procurement of pressure systems and equipment, including accessories and adaptations.
- 5.5.4. Ensure pressure systems are thoroughly examined by a competent person before first use, in accordance with and at regular intervals not exceeding the requirements of the written scheme.
- 5.5.5. Ensure that robust management of the inspection process, including the notification of completed satisfactory inspection and the isolation and/or repair and re-inspection of failed systems.
- 5.5.6. Ensure detailed inspection of new equipment prior to acceptance by the Trust by a competent person.

- 5.5.7. Take appropriate action to rectify defects, which have been identified in inspection reports in a timely manner.
- 5.5.8. Provide periodic assurance to the Trust, via the Health and Safety Committee, of compliance with this policy.

5.6. Role of Estates Officer (Mechanical) for Pressure Systems

- 5.6.1. The Estates Officer (Mechanical) for Pressure Systems is responsible for ensuring that all pressure systems are inspected and maintained on behalf of the Designated Person and Duty Holder.
- 5.6.2. They will ensure that:
 - An Asset List of all Pressure Systems is maintained and communicated.
 - That all Pressure Systems inspections are undertaken on identified assets in accordance with their written scheme. Ensuring that all systems with identified safety concerns are suitably isolated and made safe pending repairs or replacement.
 - Ensuring that all Planned Preventative Maintenance is undertaken in accordance with relevant industry statutory, mandatory and best practice.
 - Ensuring that appropriate staff and contractors are suitably trained in the operation and maintenance of pressure systems within their sphere of control.
 - Ensuring that all managers responsible for a pressure system have the relevant documentation and risk assessments to manage the asset, training and instruction.
 - Any failures are reported on the Trust incident reporting system, and that these are investigated fully.

5.7. Role of Senior Managers

- 5.7.1. Ensure that provision is made for the introduction of safe working procedures and measures as identified by risk assessment.
- 5.7.2. Ensure that all pressure systems are made available for maintenance, servicing, inspection and examination in a timely manner.
- 5.7.3. Directors must ensure that managers and staff are released for and adequately trained to competently use pressure systems. In addition, to identify hazards, assess risks, develop adequate control measures, and understand their responsibility and level of authority with regard to the use of all pressurised systems within their areas of responsibility.
- 5.7.4. Through the existing organisational structures ensure that the requirements of this document are made available to all relevant staff.

5.8. Role of Managers and Supervisors

All Managers are responsible, within their sphere of influence, for ensuring that all operations and activities involving or associated with the use of pressure systems are managed and controlled in a safe manner; and will –

- Assess the risks associated with the work activities prior to the start and throughout the activity.
- Ensure that all relevant staff are adequately trained to ensure that the requirements of this document are applied.
- Ensure that staff within their work area, regardless of role, follow safe working procedures and implement the controls identified in the risk assessment.
- Ensure that all incidents or near-misses relating to pressure systems, equipment and operations are fully and accurately reported in the Trust incident reporting and management system in a timely manner.

5.9. Role of Staff

In addition to and compliance with the statutory obligations placed upon all employees, staff will –

- Report any problems/incidents or concerns with work equipment in their work area directly to their line manager.
- Co-operate with the undertaking of risk assessment and implementing safe working procedures.
- Ensure that Standard Operating Procedures and safe systems of work are followed.
- Not to ask, facilitate or encourage any person to undertake or participate in activities or use any equipment for which they have not been trained or authorised; except where part of a defined training/assessment activity under the close control of a competent and suitably trained assessor or supervisor.

5.10. Role of the Chief Procurement Officer

The Trust Chief Procurement Officer will ensure that all requests for pressure systems and equipment are risk assessed and referred to the Head of Estate Operations for notification and approval prior to completing the order.

5.11. Role of the Health, Safety, and Manual Handling Team

5.11.1. Advise and assist with the Risk Assessment process.

5.11.2. Provide information about activities that may include risks to staff, patients or others to the Health and Safety Committee and other groups as required.

- 5.11.3. Support the investigation of reports of incidents and equipment failure related to pressure systems.
- 5.11.4. Where appropriate make reports to external agencies regarding failure of equipment and injuries associated with pressure systems or equipment.
- 5.11.5. Periodically monitor and evaluate training arrangements for compliance with this document.

6. Standards and Practice

6.1. Suitability of Pressure Systems

- 6.1.1. Regulation 4 (1) - (5) of the PSSR requires designers, manufacturers and suppliers to ensure that the systems and components are suitable and fit for the intended purpose.
- 6.1.2. Regulation 5 of the PSSR requires the system and relevant components thereof are suitably marked with relevant information regarding the design pressures, temperatures, standards of use, conformity, design life, etc. (in accordance the Approved Code of Practice).
- 6.1.3. Where the Trust requires modifications to an existing, or the installation of a new system, the Head of Estates retains responsibility for ensuring that competent persons are appointed to design, manufacture, supply, install or modify and commission the system and associated components in accordance with the PSSR and PER.
- 6.1.4. The design also requires that the systems be sufficiently strong, stable and suitable for the proposed use, including all reasonably foreseeable factors and conditions, with an appropriate factor of safety.
- 6.1.5. Under the PSSR, pressure systems will not be operated until there is a confirmed and accepted Written Scheme of Examination.

6.2. Imminent Danger

Where a report is received from the competent engineer undertaking an examination, highlighting an imminent danger the Head of Estates shall be notified and shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the system, or discrete part identified in the report, is isolated and cannot be used until fully repaired and inspected.

6.3. Thorough Examination and Inspection

- 6.3.1. The Trust is required to ensure that pressure systems are thoroughly examined and inspected by a competent person, who must be someone with appropriate practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of the pressure systems and have an element of independence and impartiality.

- 6.3.2. The risks arising from failure will determine how thorough the examination needs to be. Thorough examination is required in accordance with the specific written scheme for the equipment.
- 6.3.3. The competent person is required to provide direct notification to the HSE in the event of certain defects and failures with any pressure system.
- 6.3.4. Additionally, a thorough examination is required after substantial or significant modification or repair.
- 6.3.5. Where equipment is “mothballed” or otherwise not used for a period of three months or more a full examination must be undertaken before the equipment is returned to service.
- 6.3.6. Where a system or equipment is relocated from one site to another, or fixed system is moved within a site the equipment shall be treated as “new” and not meeting the requirements of both the PSSR and PER.

6.4. Equipment Failure

Any incident involving the total or partial failure of any pressure system or equipment or accessory must be reported as soon as practicable to the Head of Health and Safety and recorded in the Trust incident reporting system Datix.

6.5. Training

- 6.5.1. All staff involved in the assessment of risks arising from the use of pressure systems in the workplace shall receive training/instruction, commensurate directly with their duties.
- 6.5.2. All staff should be aware of the risks they may be exposed to and the findings of the risk assessment and controls in place.

6.6. Risk Assessment

- 6.6.1. The completion of the risk assessment will be the responsibility of the local manager where the pressure system or equipment is used.
- 6.6.2. The local users risk assessment shall be considered in accordance with the wider Trust risk assessment for each pressure system.
- 6.6.3. A copy of the completed assessment must be made available to the staff involved in the operation and to the Safety, Fire and Security Management Department, Accidents, Near-misses, Incidents and Occupational Ill Health
- 6.6.4. All accidents, incidents and illnesses involving pressure systems or equipment must be reported directly to the manager of that department concerned and the incident reported on the Trust’s incident reporting system, Datix.

- 6.7. All such Datix reports will be fully investigated in accordance with the Trust Incident Reporting process.

7. Dissemination and Implementation

- 7.1. This document to be disseminated to the Health and Safety Committee for distribution throughout divisions and stored in the Trust Document Library with unrestricted access for all staff.
- 7.2. Divisional Management Teams will ensure that the content of the policy is cascaded to all staff within the division/area.

8. Monitoring compliance and effectiveness

Information Category	Detail of process and methodology for monitoring compliance
Element to be monitored	Periodic Inspections and examinations. Incidents involving pressure systems.
Lead	Estates Officer (Mechanical) with responsibility for Pressure Systems.
Tool	Reports to the Health and Safety Committee by the Health and Safety Advisor and Occupational Health Service.
Frequency	Annually, (by exception).
Reporting arrangements	Reports received by the Health and Safety Committee as detailed above and reported in accordance with the Committee Terms of Reference.
Acting on recommendations and Lead(s)	The Health and Safety Committee, supported by the specialist advisers, shall make recommendations as appropriate.
Change in practice and lessons to be shared	Where issues are identified within the report; all such comments will be fed back to the relevant department/area by the appropriate representative on the committee within a time frame identified by the committee to undertake improvement or remedial action.

9. Updating and Review

This policy will be reviewed not more than every 3 years, or subject to any industry and Government guidance and best practice updates, or where there has been a change to equipment or procedures, or where an incident has occurred.

10. Equality and Diversity

- 10.1. This document complies with the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust service Equality and Diversity statement which can be found in the [Equality Diversity And Inclusion Policy](#) or the [Equality and Diversity website](#).

10.2. Equality Impact Assessment

The Initial Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form is at Appendix 2.

Appendix 1. Governance Information

Information Category	Detailed Information
Document Title:	Management of Pressure Systems Policy V3.0
This document replaces (exact title of previous version):	Management of Pressure Systems Policy V2.0
Date Issued/Approved:	April 2026
Date Valid From:	April 2026
Date Valid To:	April 2029
Author/Owner:	Ian Whittaker, Estates Officer (Mechanical)
Contact details:	01872 253400
Brief summary of contents:	Pressure systems are subject to the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and the Trust's Health and Safety Policy (General) and the policy on Work Equipment and should be read in conjunction with this advice.
Suggested Keywords:	Pressure Systems, RIDDOR, Health and Safety, Pressure
Target Audience:	RCHT: Yes CFT: No CIOB ICB: No
Executive Director responsible for Policy:	Director of Estates and Facilities
Approval route for consultation and ratification:	Estates and Facilities Senior Leadership Team
Manager confirming approval processes:	Head of Estates
Name of Governance Lead confirming consultation and ratification:	Head of Performance Improvement, Governance and Compliance, Estates and Facilities

Information Category	Detailed Information
Links to key external standards:	Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000, Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999, Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1999, CQC Regulation 10, HSE guidance.
Related Documents:	Health and Safety Policy Risk Assessment and Management Strategy and Policy Personal Protective Equipment Policy HSP 016 Patient Safety Incident Response Policy
Training Need Identified:	Yes
Publication Location (refer to Policy on Policies – Approvals and Ratification):	Internet and Intranet
Document Library Folder/Sub Folder:	Estates and Facilities/Estates

Version Control Table

Date	Version Number	Summary of Changes	Changes Made by
October 2015	V1.0	New Document.	Health and Safety Manager
October 2019	V2.0	Minor updates to Job Titles and roles to meet current organisational chart.	Head of Estate Operations
April 2026	V3.0	Updated in line with latest legislation and minor name changes.	Estates Officer (Mechanical)

All or part of this document can be released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

All Policies, Strategies and Operating Procedures, including Business Plans, are to be kept for the lifetime of the organisation plus six years.

This document is only valid on the day of printing.

Controlled Document.

This document has been created following the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust [The Policy on Policies \(Development and Management of Knowledge Procedural and Web Documents Policy\)](#). It should not be altered in any way without the express permission of the author or their Line Manager.

Appendix 2. Quality and Equality Impact Assessment (QEIA) Form

The QEIA process allows RCHT to monitor the impact of changes to its policies and services, ensuring that nobody is unduly disadvantaged.

Please ensure you have completed a Quality and Equality Impact Assessment (QEIA) using this link to complete the form:

[E11 QEIA Policy](#).

For guidance, please see the [QEIA Essentials – Quick Reference Guide](#) or contact as required below:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion guidance, please contact: rcht.inclusion@nhs.net.

Quality Governance guidance, please contact Jillian Tozer: jillian.tozer3@nhs.net