

Example risk assessment for motor vehicle repair workshop

The garage manager did the risk assessment. The business employs 12 mechanics, including two apprentices who carry out mechanical repairs.

How was the risk assessment done?

The manager followed the advice at www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/.

Having looked at relevant HSE guidance for the motor vehicle repair industry (www.hse.gov.uk/myr) and read the manufacturers' instructions for chemicals and equipment, they identified the hazards in the garage by:

- walking around the repair workshop and noting things that might cause harm;
- talking to workers to learn from their knowledge and experience and listen to their concerns;
- confirming what training had been provided;
- considering particular requirements for the apprentices in line with HSE's advice on [young workers](#);
- phoning the licensed disposal contractor to discuss arrangements for waste disposal;
- looking at the accident book to learn what had previously resulted in accidents or near misses.

The manager noted what was already being done to control the risks and recorded any further actions required.

Putting the risk assessment into practice, the manager set out what actions needed to be taken, who would do them and by when. The findings were discussed by the supervisors and their teams of mechanics.

The manager will review the risk assessment whenever there are any significant changes such as new work equipment, work activities or workers.

Do not just copy this example and put your company name to it as that would not satisfy the law and would not protect your employees. You must think about the specific hazards and controls your business needs.

The HSE site has a [template and other examples](#) to help you produce your own assessment.

Risk assessment

Company name: PQR Vehicle Repair
(mechanical repairs only)

Assessment carried out by: SW Taylor

Date assessment carried out: 7 October 2019

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Hazardous substances Contact with used engine oil etc during servicing	Skin contact over a long period can lead to severe dermatitis and skin cancer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrile gloves supplied and used. • Garage overalls supplied and used. • Contract for regular cleaning of overalls. • Workers informed to clean hands thoroughly and use skin creams provided after contact with hazardous substances. 	Supervisor to start keeping a check that gloves are being used.	Supervisor	From now on	
			Risks from dermatitis and skin cancer to be explained to workers.	Supervisor	15/10/19	15/10/19
Car engine running inside, toxic exhaust fumes, eg carbon monoxide	The fumes may cause eye irritation and breathing difficulties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car exhaust attached to extractor system when engine is running. • Extractor system maintained and tested to prevent leaks. 	No further action required.			

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Fire Petrol and LPG fires	If trapped, workers and customers could suffer fatal injuries from smoke inhalation/burns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire alarms maintained and tested by manufacturer. • Extinguishers provided and inspected under contract. • Special fire exits not needed as all work areas have immediate access to outside. • Fuel retriever used to empty vehicle fuel tanks outside. • Spillages cleared immediately • Component cleaning in recirculating paraffin system, not petrol. • LPG fuelled vehicles parked in safe places. • Workers trained in hazards of LPG. • Fire risk assessment done and necessary action taken as at www.communities.gov.uk/fire. 	Manager to arrange training on use of extinguishers for all workers.	Manager	31/10/19	30/10/19
			Annual fire drill to be carried out.	Supervisor	14/11/19	14/11/19
			Brief workers on safe working with petrol. Refer to HSE's Safe use of petrol in garages (INDG331) .	Manager	24/10/19	23/10/19
			Brief workers on safe working with LPG. Refer to HSE's Safe working with LPG-fuelled motor vehicles (INDG387) .	Manager	24/10/19	23/10/19
Battery charging	Workers could suffer burns from contact with battery acid while charging, particularly if battery is overcharged and explodes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proprietary charger, installed by electrician, is used in accordance with instructions. • Acid-resistant gloves and goggles supplied and used. 	No further action required.			

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<p>Electrical equipment</p> <p>Portable appliances, eg hand lamps</p>	<p>Workers could get electrical shocks or burns from faulty electrical equipment or on installation.</p> <p>Electrical faults can also lead to fires.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-voltage 24 V hand lamps used. • Residual current device (RCD) built into main switchboard. • A few 240 V tools are used. All have industrial plugs and leads. • Testing carried out annually on all portable 240 V tools and workers are trained to carry out pre-use visual checks and report defects. • Safety checks of the electrical equipment and installations are carried out to ensure that equipment continues to be safe. Where necessary, this is done by a competent electrician. 	<p>Manager to assess suitability of replacing 240 V tools with air-powered or 110 V alternatives.</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>18/10/19</p>	<p>17/10/19</p>
<p>Mechanical equipment</p> <p>Use of grinding equipment</p>	<p>Workers may suffer serious injury from unguarded moving parts of machinery.</p> <p>Workers can also get cut on sharp edges or scald themselves on hot parts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All mechanical equipment checked before use and faults reported to supervisor. • Equipment not to be left running unattended. • Guarding provided. • Ear defenders and safety goggles provided and worn. • Grinding wheels changed by trained person. 	<p>No further action required.</p>			

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<p>Falling objects</p> <p>Car lift failure or car jack failure</p>	<p>Failure of a car lift, jack or other lifting equipment may cause severe crush injuries to an employee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car lifts and jacks serviced by supplier and inspected by insurers every six months. • Jacks only used where ground conditions are firm, stable and level. Once vehicle lifted, axle stands used. • Axle stands regularly maintained and inspected. • Safe working loads not exceeded. 	<p>No further action required.</p>			
<p>Work involving air-conditioning systems</p>	<p>Workers could suffer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frostbite through skin or eye contact with refrigerant liquid or gas; • asphyxiation if sufficient quantities of gas escape into confined space; • exposure to harmful gases through thermal decomposition of refrigerant if exposed to a naked flame. 	<p>Workers are trained in correct procedures.</p>	<p>Brief workers on safe working with air-conditioning systems.</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>12/11/19</p>	<p>11/11/19</p>

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Compressed air Explosion of equipment tyres	Workers could suffer blast injuries from tyre or equipment explosion. Workers could suffer damage to internal organs if air is introduced into the body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All workers trained in safe working procedures and dangers. Airline has deadman's handle. System inspected and serviced every year by insurers. 	No further action required.			
Handling vehicle air bags	Air bags could explode when not fitted, causing injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Units are stored in suitable cabinet of their own. Workers are trained in correct handling and fitting. Faulty units are returned to supplier for disposal. 	Brief workers on safe handling of air bags (from HSE's A guide to the handling and storage of airbags and seat belt pretensioners (INDG280)).	Supervisor	5/11/19	5/11/19
Manual handling Movement of components	Workers risk injuries or back pain or pain elsewhere from handling heavy and/or bulky objects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers are trained in safe manual handling and to ensure contractors follow safe manual handling techniques. Manual handling aids are available, eg lift truck. 	<p>Manager to arrange manual handling training for the workers in the store.</p> <p>Brief workers on handling tyres, refer to HSE publication Collection and delivery of tyres: Tackling the risk of manual handling injuries.</p> <p>A detailed assessment to be done using HSE publication Manual handling assessment charts (INDG383).</p>	Manager	27/11/19	27/11/19

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Vehicle movements	Workers and customers risk potentially serious injury if struck by a moving vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe customer parking provided without need for reversing. • Marked walkways for pedestrians. • Vehicles driven slowly around premises. 	No further action required.			