

Agriculture Sector Work Plan 2022/23: inspection of farms with beef and dairy cattle; inspection in conjunction with Agriculture Compliance Events; evaluation inspection of 2021/2022 ACE visits; inspection of management of risk from overhead powerlines on farms; and a programme of forestry inspections

Open Government status: Open

Audience: FOD Inspectors, Visiting Officers, Divisional Intelligence Officers, Specialist Inspectors

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Inspection programme

What are we inspecting and why?

Agriculture is an industry in which risks are poorly managed, resulting in persistently high rates of injury and ill-health. The 2022/23 inspection programme will comprise of:

- 1) A programme of inspection targeting the major risks of injury by cattle in the livestock sector, including risks to members of the public who may encounter cattle in fields while using public footpaths.
- 2) A programme of inspection combined with a series of compliance events (Agriculture Compliance Events, ACE), developed from research into farmers attitudes to risk, and to bring about a change in behaviours and effective management of risk.
- 3) Follow up evaluation inspections to a small number of farms visited as part of the ACE inspections in 2021/2022.
- 4) A programme of inspection focusing on management of overhead power lines on farms. Numbers of power line strikes are high and there is an impact on national infrastructure.
- 5) A programme of inspection targeting chainsaw operations, in particular planning and competence, in the forestry industry. Being struck by trees during chainsaw felling is a major cause of fatal injury.

IMPORTANT - This Operational Guidance (OG) has been written to enable the inspector to read the relevant section pertaining to the inspection activity being carried out. It is not meant to be read as whole. The table of Initial Enforcement Expectations will be relevant for a variety of commonly found issues.

What is the extent of the problem?

Agriculture accounted for approximately 1% of the GB workforce, yet in 2020/21 it accounted for 20% of reported work-related fatalities including workers (34) and members of the public (7). It therefore remains a priority in the HSE business plan.

In 2020/21 Agriculture's fatal injury rate was approximately 6 times greater than construction and approximately 20 times greater than the 'all-industries' fatal injury rate.

The main causes of death have remained unchanged for many years, they are:

- Workplace transport;
- Falling objects;
- Falls from height;
- Machinery
- Livestock handling
- Tree work operations (in forestry)

A further 12,000 workers on average each year sustain non-fatal injuries.

The precautions necessary to prevent death and serious injury in these areas are well known and guidance is widely available.

The latest fatal injuries report for agriculture, including forestry, can be found at:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm>

In addition, the agriculture industry has a very poor record for occupational ill health. The true extent is hard to gauge but best indicators of occupational ill-health performance can be extrapolated from the Labour Force Survey and self-reported work-related illness survey:

- There are an estimated 11,000 cases of occupational ill-health reported to be caused or made worse by work in agriculture each year
- Approximately 44% of which are MSDs

What must be covered during inspections?

Appendices to this Operational Guidance (OG) describe the topics to be covered and the specific issues to be addressed during each of the five inspection work streams. Initial Enforcement Expectation (IEE) Tables are also included apart from forestry. The IEE table for forestry will be provided separately alongside a briefing to those inspectors carrying out the visits.

It is proposed that briefings will be offered to those FOD units involved in the Agriculture Compliance Event (ACE) inspections during this work year which will be by [recorded presentation](#) and a follow up Question-and-Answer session in September 2022.

Briefing or additional guidance material covering the cattle inspections, OHPL and forestry will be provided separately. Additional guidance material for each topic will be located on the [Agriculture and Forestry Information Portal - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

Any [Matters of Evident Concern and Matters of Potential Major Concern](#) that are encountered should be addressed in the usual way.

What Sectors and Topics are we Inspecting and when?

Sector	Topics	When
Managing the risks from cattle	• Handling and housing cattle • Risks to members of the public • Silage operations • Slurry storage	Q1
Inspection following Agriculture Compliance Events (ACE)	Topics will match the areas covered by the ACE: • Work at height and falling objects • Workplace transport and machinery • Cattle handling • Electricity • Children on farms • Drowning and asphyxiation	Q3 and Q4
Follow-up evaluation inspection of Agriculture Compliance Event (ACE) 2021/2022 visits	Topics will match the areas covered by the ACE: • Work at height and falling objects • Workplace transport and machinery • Cattle handling • Electricity • Children on farms • Drowning and asphyxiation	Q3 and Q4
Managing the risks from Overhead Power Lines (OHPL)	Management of risks to farm workers, contractors, and visitors: • Work planning near lines • Appropriate machinery selection • Monitoring • Supervision • Information, Instruction and Training	Q1 to Q4
Management of forestry operations	• Chainsaw competency • Site specific chainsaw risk assessment • Forestry Manager (FWM) competency	Q2

	• Machinery safety • Welfare arrangements	
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Further information on targeting of premises including SIC codes is given in the targeting and inspection guide.

Application of the Enforcement Management Model (EMM)

Guidance is provided on application of the Enforcement Management Model for topics in each of the above work streams. The Initial Enforcement Expectation tables in this document are not intended to cover every scenario but are intended to give an overview of enforcement standards for relevant topic areas e.g. work at height, vehicles etc. Contact the Sector if additional guidance is required.

Important - Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act applies to self-employed persons undertaking agricultural activities, even if they only put themselves at risk. This is specified in the Deregulation Act 2015 (Health and Safety at Work) (General Duties of Self-Employed Persons).

Sector Support Available

Relevant Sector Inspector		Topic lead
Wayne Owen	07771 667015	Team Leader
Stephen Britton	07884 476446	Livestock safety (including public rights of way). Zoonoses. MSDs. Agricultural Buildings (including DTM asbestos). Confined Spaces including slurry and slurry gases. DSEAR and fire safety. Ammonium nitrate (notification and storage). Biosecurity. Pesticides/biocides. Work at Height (except tree work). Bale safety. COSHH. Production horticulture. Vets and Veterinary medicines. Sheep dipping. Stress. Mental Health. Child safety
Adrian Hodkinson	07879 661609	Team Leader
Eve Macready-Jones	07788 566804	Agricultural Transport. General Agricultural Machinery Safety. Pre-harvest machinery and sprayer standards. Whole body vibration (agricultural machines). LOLER and telehandlers. Workplace transport. Overhead power lines. Landscaping.
Kathy Gostick	07717 498653	Forestry. Arboriculture. Aquaculture. Gamekeeping.
Chris Maher	07825 273401	Arboriculture and Agricultural Machinery

Recording of Inspections

All inspections should be recorded in accordance with current FOD work recording instructions. Each ACE inspection case will be set up on COIN as either 'AGCOMP' or 'EVALUATION'. Cattle, Forestry and OHPL visits will be set up as HRS visits. Support colleagues will already have input relevant **#keywords** and recorded attendee status (ACE) when setting up the COIN case. There is no need for inspectors to record #keywords or attendee status on the inspection recording form.

When filling in the inspection recording form inspectors should choose the following inspection types:

Inspection type	Main inspection type	Priority sector	Sub-Sector
AGCOMP	AGCOMP		
Eval	Eval	Agriculture	
Cattle	HRS	Agriculture	Cattle/Livestock
OHPL	HRS	Agriculture	OHPL
Forestry	HRS	Agriculture	Forestry

Below are examples of risk topics and where appropriate how they correspond to the ACE topics:

Sector	Risk area examples
Managing the risks from cattle	• Livestock handling • Confined Spaces • Substances Hazardous to Health • Work at Height • MSD • Public Protection
Inspection following agriculture compliance events	• Confined Spaces (relevant ACE topic: drowning and asphyxiation) • Electrical Safety • Plant & Equipment • Public Protection (Relevant ACE topic: children) • Workplace Transport • Work at Height.
Follow up evaluation inspections to 2021/2022 ACE premises	• Confined Spaces (relevant ACE topic: drowning and asphyxiation) • Electrical Safety • Plant & Equipment • Public Protection (Relevant ACE topic: children) • Workplace Transport • Work at Height.
Overhead power lines	• Electrical Safety • Workplace Transport
Forestry	• Chainsaw operations RA • Competence of FWM and chainsaw operators • Plant & Equipment • Workplace Transport

If you visit a farm where there is only a sole trader or partners who undertake work then please ensure that you record no employees in the relevant part of the form.

Inspectors are encouraged to share any issues of note (e.g. particular instances of good practice, extremely poor practice, photographs, copies of letter/notices etc) with the Agriculture Sector. We aim to use communications(before, during and after inspection work) to maximise the impact of the inspection activity.

Health And Safety

Industry-specific health & safety information is detailed in the sector sub-appendices.
General health & safety information for visiting staff can be found on the intranet Health and Safety for Visiting Staff.

Agriculture Sector Appendices

Appendix 1 - Managing the risks from cattle, slurry and silage

Introduction

Managing the risks from cattle, slurry and silage

The primary focus of the cattle visits should be on how farmers manage the risks to themselves, their workers, contractors and members of the public from cattle, slurry and silage. Focus on the following four topics:

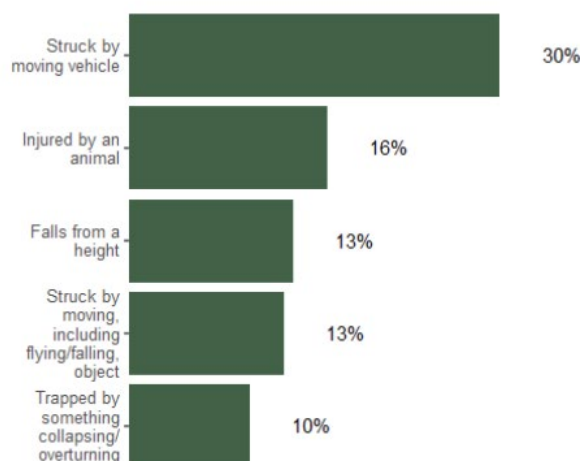
1. Handling and housing cattle
2. Risks to members of the public from cattle in fields with public rights of way
3. Silage cutting and storage
4. Slurry storage and spreading

NOTE – Please record that each of the four topics has been raised / discussed during each visit even where no problems are found.

Reason for the inspections

Overview – In 2020/21 11 people were killed by inadequate management of cattle – including 7 members of the public. Many more have been seriously injured.

Over a 5-year period 16% of fatal injuries were a result of being injured by an animal – nearly always cattle.



Source: RIDDOR, 2016/17-2020/21. Accident kinds are shown for the top 5 causes of fatal injury.

Targeting

Cattle inspection visits will take place throughout Great Britain.

Visits should be planned according to the instructions in the FOD Targeting and Inspection Guide 2022/23. A list of premises from which to select visits will be provided to FOD by the Agriculture Sector.

Timing

Visits should be completed during Q1 of the work year.

Health and safety

Follow [HSE guidance for inspectors when visiting farms](#) and [HSE guidance on biosecurity practices when visiting farms](#). Disinfect your boots before any agriculture visit and check if the farm is in a restricted area using [APHA Map](#). It is essential that exemplary standards of biosecurity are followed to

avoid reputational risk to HSE in the event of alleged disease transmission. Follow any specific farm biosecurity arrangements.

Inspection

Inspection will concentrate on the listed topics and associated risks. Farmers should understand and control risks in all 4 inspection topics. Do not accept poor practice on site, risks are well-known and control measures are reasonably practicable. Appropriate enforcement action in line with the IEE's is the expected outcome.

Any [Matters of Evident Concern and Matters of Potential Major Concern](#) should be addressed in the usual way.

A link to training material for inspectors including video presentations is on Sharepoint - [Livestock Inspections 2022/3 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Enforcement expectations

Inspectors should consider those issues set out above. Initial Enforcement Expectations for some commonly encountered issues are set out in Appendix 6.

Appendix 2 - Inspection in support of Agriculture Compliance Events

Introduction

Six regions have been selected to run HSE's Agriculture Compliance Event (ACEs) training during the 2022/23 work year. These events, delivered to farmers, will be linked directly to inspection activity within the same area - see table below. The inspection activity will begin approximately two months after the ACE training. The ACE training is made available online through an e-learning package for six weeks.

Regions selected to run agriculture compliance training are:

Unit 1	Aberdeenshire, Moray & Orkney
Unit 3	Northumberland & County Durham
Unit 6	Hampshire & Kent
Unit 7	Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire & Lincolnshire
Unit 8	North Wales & Shropshire
Unit 9	Gloucestershire & Worcestershire

ACE online training will be offered to farmers in these areas in July and August 2022.

HSE has contracted Lantra to organise and deliver this training. The focus will be on the practical steps that farms can take to ensure compliance ahead of the programme of inspection visits which will take place mid Q3 to early Q4. While the programme of training and inspection is known as ACE, farmers will be invited to take training to help them "prepare for an inspection" so that it is clear what is being offered and why.

Agriculture Sector will provide FOD with six lists (one for each region) of viable farm visits after the ACE training has taken place. The list will detail which farms registered and completed the e-learning course and which farms did not take up the offer of the HSE funded training.

FOD are asked to carry out visits to farms in each of the six regions. Details of numbers and targeting information will appear in the FOD Targeting and Inspection Guide. Inspection visits should be carried out between October 2022 and April 2023 for each of the 6 regions.

Agriculture Sector has provided online [training and information](#) packages for inspectors to enable them to deliver the inspection programme. A follow up Q&A session will also be offered to inspectors during September for inspectors.

Background

For many years HSE ran agricultural safety and health awareness days (SHADs) as a way of raising the awareness of safety and health issues amongst hard-to-reach farmers.

In 2018 this changed to a model where a series of regional events were linked to inspection activity targeted at promoting sustained compliance with long established legal duties and standards and thereby raise standards on farms. The approach uses behavioural insights to improve and deliver sustained compliance.

We use the intelligence gained each year to improve our approach and aim to use peer support group events to help with regulatory assurance.

Timing

FOD Inspection activity will take place October 2022 to April 2023.

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Health and safety
Follow HSE guidance for inspectors when visiting farms and HSE guidance on biosecurity practices when visiting farms . Disinfect your boots before and after any agriculture visit and check if the farm is in a restricted area using APHA Map . It is essential that exemplary standards of biosecurity are followed to avoid reputational risk to HSE in the event of alleged disease transmission. Follow additional biosecurity arrangements provided by the farm.
Inspection
Inspection will concentrate on the main causes of fatal accidents (which will have been covered in the agricultural e-learning training) and ill health. Even if farmers do not choose to take the training, the HSE leaflet 'What a Good Farm Looks Like' is available free of charge online. The leaflet contains simple statements of what a farm complying with health and safety legislation looks like in terms of management of safety and health risks. Do not accept poor practice on site, risks are well known. Appropriate enforcement action in line with the IEE's is the expected outcome. Any Matters of Evident Concern and Matters of Potential Major Concern should be addressed in the usual way. Enforcement expectations Inspectors should consider those issues set out below in the Priorities section where relevant at each visit. Initial Enforcement Expectations for some commonly identified issues are set out in this OG.
Priorities
Ensure farmers, including the self-employed, understand and manage the H&S risks associated with running their farm. Are they complying with long standing legal requirements and understand why these are important to prevent injury and ill health? Where relevant concentrate on: • Child Safety – Main message, children shouldn't be in the active workplace ○ Young children: should have safe play areas and be fully supervised if taken into work areas of the farm ○ Older children: trained and fully supervised only undertaking low risk activities in a very controlled way • Transport and machinery safety ○ Safe farm layout ○ ROPS (cabs and bars) ○ Seat belt use ○ Competence for using tractors, telehandlers, ATVs ○ ATVs (helmets, training and maintenance) ○ Safe Stop and machinery isolation ○ Power Take Off (PTO) shaft guarding ○ Maintenance and LOLER examination • Cattle ○ Handling and housing (workers segregated from animals during high-risk work) ○ Suitable race and crush ○ Public rights of way managed • Falls from height ○ Work on fragile roofs / gutters ○ Falling objects – bales, potato boxes, stored machinery and equipment • Overhead power lines (OHPLs) ○ Maps (location known and communicated to workers and contractors) ○ Use of appropriate vehicles and equipment ○ Storage (not under OHPLs)

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- Traffic routes and control
 - Control of contractors
- Electrical supplies
 - Tested and maintained
- Confined Spaces – grain stores and slurry lagoons
 - Fencing
 - Contractors used for confined space work

Additionally, inspectors may wish to look at any of the following when encountered

- Lung disorders – dust, fume, slurry gases
- Manual handling risk
- Pesticide stores - design and maintenance of (seek NPET advice before taking enforcement)
- Training – including chainsaws and ATVs
- Asbestos - Duty to manage, and control work

Take effective enforcement action to secure compliance with matters giving rise to significant risk of injury and ill health. The Sector has access to considerable accident and ill health history.

Guidance

[Farmwise](#)
[What a Good Farm Looks Like](#)

FOD Operational Guidance: Agriculture Work Plan 2022/23

Appendix 3 - Evaluation inspections of 2021/22 ACE premises

Introduction
In 2021/22 four regions were selected to run HSE's Agriculture Compliance Events (ACEs). Follow up inspections in support of the events were also carried out in 2021/22. These four regions were 1) Tayside, 2) Cumbria and Lancashire, 3) Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, 4) South Wales. During this work year FOD are asked to revisit some of the farms inspected in 2021/22 to determine whether there has been any sustained improvement. Agriculture Sector will provide FOD with a list of sites to allow selection of revisits. FOD are asked to carry out visits to farms in each of the four regions. Details of numbers and targeting information will appear in the FOD Targeting and Inspection Guide. Inspection visits should be carried out between October 2022 and April 2023 for each of the 4 regions.
Background For many years HSE ran agricultural safety and health awareness days (SHADs) as a way of raising the awareness of safety and health issues amongst hard-to-reach farmers. In 2018 we changed to a model where a series of regional events were linked to inspection activity targeted at promoting sustained compliance with long established legal duties and standards and thereby raise standards on farms. While these new events will continue this year by e-learning delivery, there will be a small number of revisits to premises that were visited in previous year's programme to help evaluate whether the ACE programme and supporting inspections provide a mechanism for sustained compliance.
Timing FOD inspection activity will take place October 2022 and April 2023.
Health and safety
Follow HSE guidance for inspectors when visiting farms and HSE guidance on biosecurity practices when visiting farms. Disinfect your boots before and after any agriculture visit and check if the farm is in a restricted area using APHA Map. It is essential that exemplary standards of bio security are followed to avoid reputational risk to HSE in the event of alleged disease transmission.
Inspection
Inspection will concentrate on the main causes of fatal accidents (which were covered with farmers during the ACE training) and ill health. Even if farmers did not choose to take the training, the HSE leaflet 'What a Good Farm Looks Like' is available free of charge online. The leaflet contains simple statements of what a farm complying with health and safety legislation looks like in terms of management of safety and health risks. Do not accept poor practice on site. Risks are well-known and controls are reasonably practicable to implement. Appropriate enforcement action in line with the IEE's is the expected outcome. The purpose of these visits is to determine whether the farm has taken on board the messages given during the training and by inspectors during the initial visits in 2021/22. Any Matters of Evident Concern and Matters of Potential Major Concern should be addressed in the usual way.
Enforcement expectations Inspectors should consider those issues set out below in the Priorities section where relevant at each visit. Initial Enforcement Expectations are set out later in this document in Appendix 6.

FOD Operational Guidance: Agriculture Work Plan 2022/23

Priorities
Ensure farmers, including the self-employed, understand and manage the H&S risks associated with running their farm. Are they complying with long standing legal requirements and understand why these are important to prevent injury and ill health? Where relevant concentrate on: • Child Safety – Main message, children shouldn't be in the active workplace ○ Young children: have a safe play area and are fully supervised on farm. ○ Older children: trained and fully supervised only undertaking low risk activities in a very controlled way • Transport and machinery safety ○ Safe farm layout ○ ROPS (cabs and bars) ○ Seat belt use ○ Competence for using tractors, telehandlers, ATVs ○ ATVs (helmets, training and maintenance) ○ Safe Stop and machinery isolation ○ Power Take Off (PTO) shaft guarding ○ Maintenance and LOLER examination • Cattle ○ Handling and housing (workers segregated from animals during high-risk work) ○ Race and crush ○ Public rights of way • Falls from height ○ Work on fragile roofs / gutters ○ Falling objects – bales, potato boxes, stored machinery and equipment • Overhead power lines (OHPLs) ○ Maps (location know and communicated to workers and contractors) ○ Use of appropriate vehicles and equipment ○ Storage (not under OHPLs) ○ Traffic routes and control ○ Control of contractors • Electrical supplies ○ Tested and maintained • Confined Spaces – grain stores and slurry lagoons ○ Fencing ○ Contractors used for confined space work Additionally, inspector may wish to look at any of the following when encountered • Lung disorders –dust, fume, slurry gases • Manual handling risk • Pesticide stores - design and maintenance of (consult NPET inspector before any enforcement is taken) • Training – including chainsaws and ATVs • Asbestos - Duty to manage, and control work Take effective enforcement action to secure compliance with matters giving rise to significant risk of injury and ill health. The Sector has access to considerable accident and ill health history.
Guidance
Farmwise What a Good Farm Looks Like

Appendix 4 – Managing the risks from Overhead Power Lines

Introduction
Managing the risks from Overhead Power Lines (OHPL) FOD are asked to carry out inspection visits to farms throughout 2022/23 to assess the management of risks from Overhead Power Lines (OHPL). In the 5 years (2016/17–2020/21(p)) there were 4 fatal injuries on farms resulting from contact with OHPLs. HSE receives few reports of contact with OHPLs from farmers, even though any unintentional contact of plant and equipment with uninsulated overhead electric lines exceeding 200v is a RIDDOR reportable Dangerous Occurrence. However, the Distribution Network Operators (DNO) who own, and are responsible for, overhead power line assets crossing farmland are required to notify HSE of significant events. Data from the DNOs shows that the number of reported non-injury contacts with OHPL and support structures (poles and stay wires) on farmland caused by machinery increased significantly from 2013 reaching approx. 385 contacts in 2018 (see Figure 1). There was a reduction in these numbers in 2019 to 282 potentially due to campaigning by the Energy Network Association, however the number of contacts increased again in 2020 to 329, and 318 in 2021, demonstrating that this is still very much a concern for agriculture. It is believed that the increase in OHPL contacts may reflect the increasing size of farm machinery and more use of contractors who may be less familiar with the farm and will use larger machinery for efficiency reasons. Almost all contacts reported involve OHPL carrying voltages over 11kV so each represents a potential fatal or significant life changing injury. Each contact is evidence of failure to adequately manage risks from OHPLs. Many result in damage to DNO assets, disruption to consumer supplies and damage to or destruction of the farm equipment involved. The FOD inspections are intended to supplement these continuing ENA and DNO initiatives, making use of data supplied by the DNOs to target activity to farms where OHPL strikes are known to have occurred as evidence of inadequate management of OHPL risks. The ENA and individual DNOs will publicise that HSE inspection activity is occurring in their communications aimed at the agriculture industry, helping to gain wider impact. Outcomes from the inspections will be analysed and used to help feed back into future campaigns and guidance. It is hoped that this combined approach will secure further reductions in the number of fatal, injury and non-injury OHPL contacts on farms in 2022 and beyond.

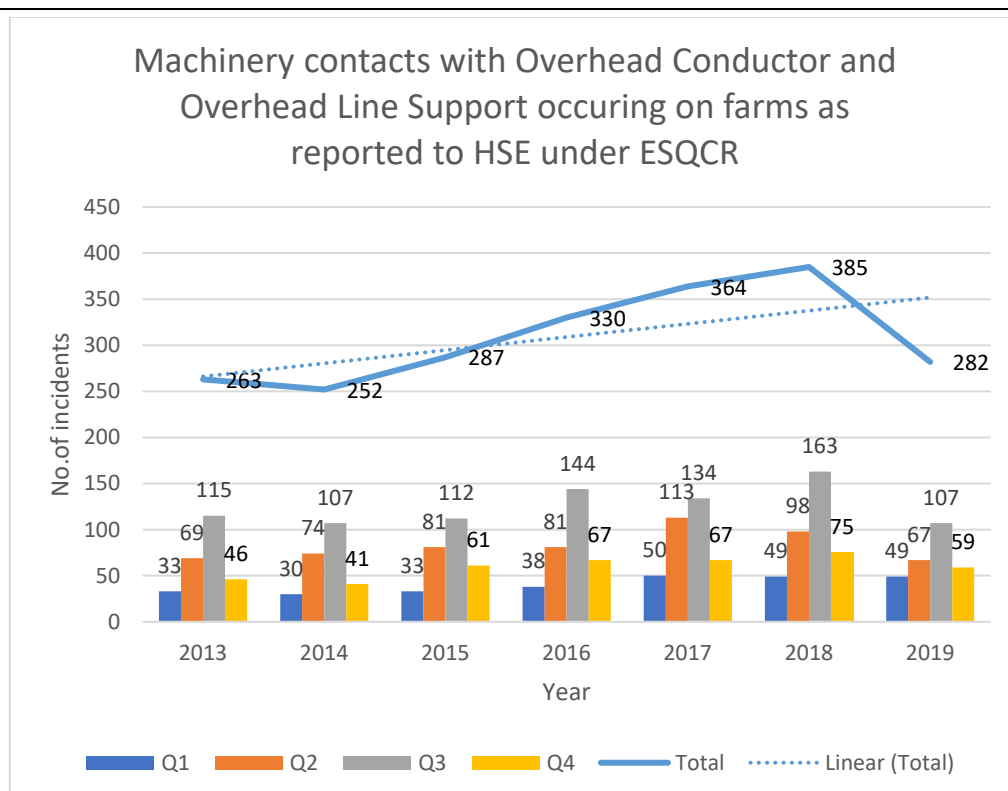


Figure 1. Reported non-injury OHPL and support structure contacts

Background

DNOs are legally required to report specified events involving their assets to HSE in accordance with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR). Specified events include fatalities, injuries, and non-injury contact with overhead power lines and support structures. This results in many notifications to HSE of non-injury contacts with overhead power lines and support structures, such as poles and stay wires, involving farm machinery and equipment. HSE has not previously used this data for targeting inspection despite each representing a potentially fatal injury and possible material breach.

Individual DNOs and the Energy Network Association (ENA) have been actively campaigning to raise awareness of OHPL risks to the agricultural industry, avoidance measures and the availability of the 105 emergency contact number, with increased activity particularly around summer harvest time. In 2018 the ENA launched a coordinated [‘Look Out, Look Up’ campaign](#) supported by the individual DNO member organisations and HSE, including a safety video, press releases and other campaign materials. The campaign attracted significant attention from the farming industry and has done a lot to raise awareness. In 2019 individual DNOs again targeted agriculture, particularly around harvest time, and the ‘Look Out, Look Up’ materials also remain available on the ENA website at [Look Out, Look Up! – Energy Networks Association \(ENA\)](#)

HSE publishes relevant guidance specifically aimed at agriculture. The risks from OHPL are included as part of the Agriculture Compliance Events (ACE). Although awareness of the need to map OHPLs and what to do if your machine is in contact with an OHPL is improving, action to plan work to avoid OHPL in the first place is often lacking. For example; a map plotting the route of OHPL on its own is not sufficient because it tells farmers little more than they can learn through looking out the cab window.

The minimum height of OHPL crossing farmland is set by ESQCR and depends on the voltage, with 5.2m the minimum height for 11kV OHPLs (See Figure 2). The minimum heights have not changed, yet the numbers of machinery contacts reported by DNOs has been increasing, possibly due to the increase in the height and reach of modern farm machinery.

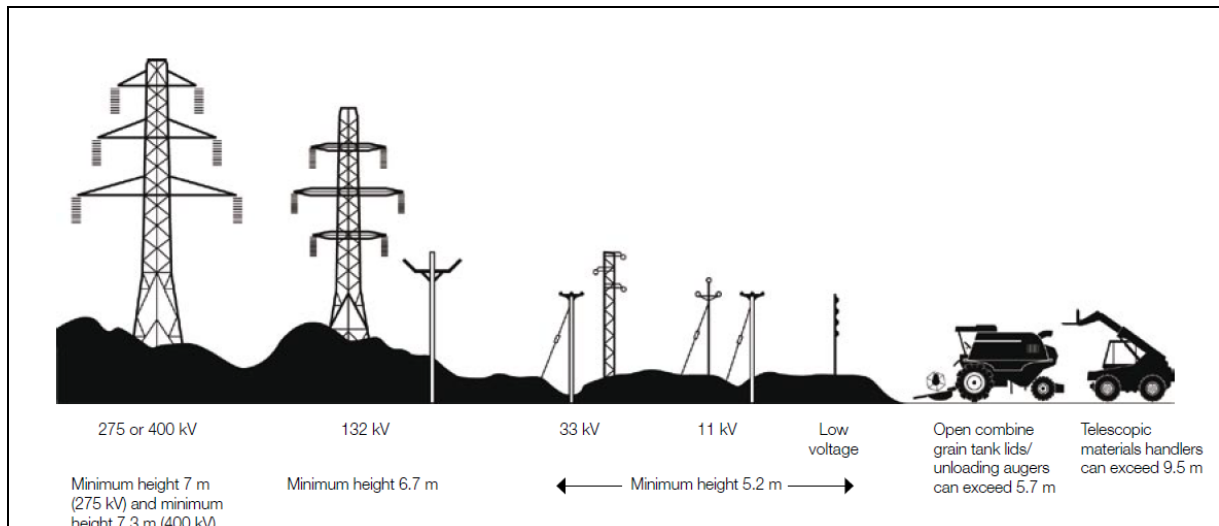


Figure 2 – Minimum OHPL height taken from Agriculture Information Sheet 8
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais8.htm>

DNO reports of contact with support structures include those where there has been direct damage or evidence of machinery contact with support poles, stay wires and other associated structures. Even if there has not have been direct contact with the OHPL damage to the support structure has the potential to bring the line down to ground level, or into contact with the cab or other parts of machinery. It also may mean that the clearance height is reduced to below the minimum thereby increasing risk to the operator, other employees or members of the public.

DNOs will become aware of machinery contact with OHPLs through various channels; by direct report from the farmer involved, reports from neighbours/members of the public witnessing the contact, or when DNO staff attend the scene to investigate a registered fault or carry out maintenance.

In some cases, the machinery operator will have driven away before DNO staff arrive and often the damage is not discovered until long after the event which caused it. In addition, it is not always possible to identify which duty holder was directly responsible for contacting the OHPL conductor or support structure. The farmer may claim not to have any knowledge of the incident, the land may be rented to another farmer, or the incident may have been caused by a contractor.

Therefore, the machine that contacted the line or support structure may not be present when DNO staff attend the scene making it difficult for them to identify the machinery type and circumstances. To assist with our data gathering DNOs have been encouraged to provide HSE with as much information as possible, for example picking up clues from evidence of activity taking place e.g. hedge trimming, harvesting, spraying etc.

Regardless of these complexities, every report to HSE provides intelligence that OHPLs are present on agricultural land and that some contact has happened, or damage has been incurred. There will be a landowner and whether they are farming the land themselves or bringing in contractors, both will have H&S duties.

In addition to the general duties under HSWA Section 2 and 3, the following legislation will be relevant:

- MHSWR 1999 - Reg 3 (risk assessment), Reg 5 (H&S arrangements), Reg 8 (procedures for serious and imminent danger), and Reg 10 (information for employees)
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 - Reg 4(3) (carry out work near a system in such a manner as not to give rise, so far as is reasonably practicable, to danger)
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 Reg 14 (not engage in any work activity near any live conductor that danger may arise)

FOD Operational Guidance: Agriculture Work Plan 2022/23

Avoidance of contact and damage to OHPLs and structures is good for business. Modern farm machinery is often fitted with sophisticated electrical guidance and control systems that can easily be damaged or destroyed by electrical overload and fires. Contacts can cause lengthy interruption to farm, and other customers' supplies and farmers may also be charged for repairs to the network by the DNO.

Reasons for the inspections

These inspections address a high-risk activity with the potential for death or serious injury utilising a previously untapped source of intelligence. The work will also support current stakeholder work on OHPL contacts such as the ENA's current Look Out Look Up campaign. HSE will also be able to gather intelligence for future HSE and DNO engagement in tackling this issue.

Timing

FOD inspection activity will take place throughout 2022/23.

DNO reports already received from 2021-22 will be triaged and collated by Ag Sector before being distributed to FOD units via FOD Divisional Support Team. FOD will decide when to carry out the visits however it is recommended to visit during Q1 and Q2 as this coincides with periods of frequent vehicle movement (e.g. spraying, fertiliser application, silaging) and harvest activities. Additional reports received during 2022-23 will be triaged and distributed to supplement those already provided.

Targeting

HSE have no control over where or when ESQCR reports will be made. OHPL incidents occur across GB although there appears to be a larger concentration in those areas with a greater proportion of arable farming activities. There are 14 electricity distribution network operators owned by six ownership groups. Figure 3 shows the average number of annual farm machinery contacts notified for each of the 14 DNO areas over a 5-year period. There were no reports for London.

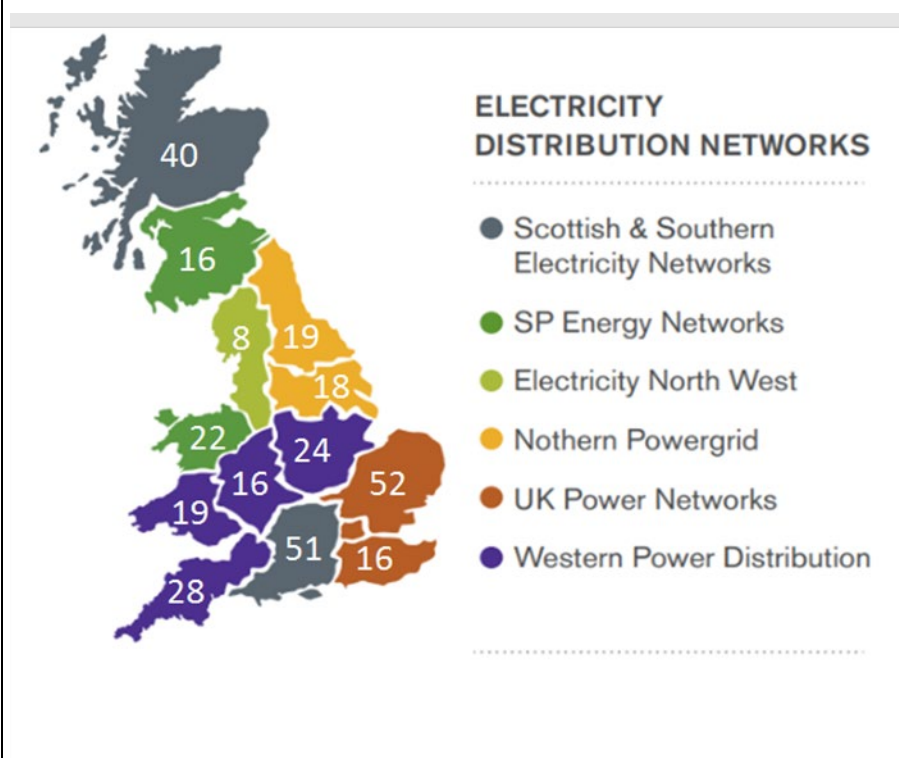


Figure 3 – Average annual number of farm machinery contacts reported

Agriculture (Ag) Sector will triage contact reports received from the DNO selecting those most relevant and with the best location/duty holder information. Where DNOs provide location information only (e.g. farmer has left the scene) then Ag Sector will make best efforts to link these locations to a

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known duty holder using DEFRA and other databases. This information will then be passed to DST/DIOs for distribution to the relevant FOD unit. Where possible Ag Sector will provide more suggested visits than are required leaving it free for FOD to select visits based on local resources and geography.

To avoid wasted visits Ag Sector recommends that inspections are made by appointment. Where the named duty holder confirms they do not actively farm the land but rents it to another farmer Ag Sector recommends Inspectors identify the person farming the land and arrange the inspection with them. The inspection case may need to be reallocated.

Be aware that the farmer may not actually have knowledge of the reported OHPL contact, e.g. if it was caused by a contractor and not reported to them. This is not important because we are not investigating the incident itself - the report is only being used for targeting and as evidence that there are OHPLs on a farm where risks may not be properly managed.

In addition, the farmer is likely to own machinery capable of contact with OHPL and will still have duties to himself, employees and other persons. Their arrangements for appointing and managing contractors, providing instruction and information, etc., should be explored because they have a duty to inform contractors of OHPLs on their land. The farmer may also be a contractor to other farms and so their own arrangements for receiving information on the presence of OHPL and how they control risks while working as a contractor could also be explored.

Inspectors may choose to carry out inspections against individual contractors if they are able to identify them.

A recent inspection as a part of the Agriculture Compliance Event follow up, or as part of our livestock visit, should not mean the visit is cancelled - unless it is completely clear that OHPL issues were fully addressed.

Health and safety

Follow 'HSE guidance for inspectors when visiting farms' and [HSE guidance on biosecurity practices when visiting farms](#) at all visits.

Inspection

Assess management of risks from OHPLs, including to visitors and contractors, using the DNO report of contact, or support structure damage, as intelligence and evidence of potential management failures. You are **not** being asked to investigate the specific contact incident reported by the DNO although this may arise as part of the discussion

Inspectors should consider those issues set out in the Priorities section below where relevant at each visit.

Inspectors are asked to share information on good and bad practice and any 'before and after' photographs with Ag Sector for use in future communications and engagement with stakeholders.

Which dutyholder?

Ag Sector envisage the following scenarios occurring:

1. A landowner who farms the land themselves, with or without direct employees, or who engages contractors.

Inspectors should explore farmers duties to themselves, employees, contractors, other visitors, e.g. visiting feed lorry drivers.

If the OHPL contact was caused by a contractor Ag Sector recommends that the inspection of the farmer should still go ahead. The farmer is also likely to own machinery capable of contact with OHPL and will still have duties to himself, employees and other persons.

The farmer may offer contract services to other farmers, and you can explore their arrangements for

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giving and receiving information on the presence of OHPLs, the height of their own equipment and how they control risks while working as a contractor.

2. A contractor who may also have employees (including a landowner or farm tenant who also contracts for other farms).

Explore contractors' duties to themselves and any employees/self-employed workers including how they manage information on the presence of OHPLs, planning of the work and the height and reach of their equipment, etc.

3. Landowner who does not farm the land but rents it to another farmer long term, e.g. a retired 'slipper' farmer.

Find out who the tenant farmer is and arrange a visit to them inspect their management arrangements (as farmer above).

Enforcement expectations

Inspections are targeted at duty holders where a known OHPL contact or damage to support structures has been reported. Each DNO report represents a reportable RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence, the potential for fatal or life changing injury and therefore a potential material breach if not reported by the duty holder

It is anticipated that few duty holders will have properly considered and addressed the risks from OHPLs. For example, although some may have mapped the location of OHPLs they may not have linked this with information about the OHPL voltage and clearance height, comparing this to the height and reach of machinery and equipment used. A mapping exercise alone is not sufficient to demonstrate proper management of the risks associated with OHPLs.

Initial Enforcement Expectations (IEE) for some common OHPL issues are set out in this OG (see contents page for details). A robust enforcement approach will help in raising the issue in the wider community and industry. Farmers talk to other farmers and share enforcement by HSE and DNO communications. Enforcement activity will be publicised where appropriate – please share images and actions taken with the Sector.

MECs and MPMCs

Any [Matters of Evident Concern](#) and [Matters of Potential Major Concern](#) should be addressed in the usual way.

Guidance

Published relevant guidance is available from HSE, The Energy Network Association (ENA) and individual DNOs. Key sources of guidance are:

- GS6 Avoiding danger from overhead power lines
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/gs6.htm>
- AIS8 Working safely near overhead electricity power lines
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais8.htm>
- Energy Networks Association guidance, leaflets including Look Out Look Up, and printable cab stickers from ENA website
<http://www.energynetworks.org/electricity/she/overview.html>

Inspectors are advised to refer in particular to Agriculture Information Sheet AIS8 'Working safely near overhead electricity power lines' which states the minimum heights for the range of OHPLs voltages and gives industry specific advice including a list of activities that should not be carried out within 10m horizontal distance from OHPL, e.g. stacking bales, tipping trailers, folding sprayer booms.

GS6 gives advice relevant to all industries and of particular note are the recommended exclusion zones given for working under OHPL (e.g. operating an excavator to dig a ditch). The same are referred to in 'Look Out Look Up', e.g.

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- Low voltage line – 1m
- 11kV and 33kV lines – 3m
- 132kV line – 6m
- 275kV and 400kV lines – 7m

Although GS6 also describes passing under OHPL (e.g. machine crossing under OHPL while traveling along a farm track or during field work) it does not give minimum clearance distances to be maintained. Clearances for passing under are recommended in ENA Technical Specifications and inspectors and duty holders are recommended to contact the relevant DNO for local requirements.

Guidance from Distribution Network Operators

In addition to websites and published guidance produced by DNOs most also employ staff to advise the public who can visit farms, measure OHPL heights and give advice on clearance distances and practical measures to avoid risks.

Duty holders should be advised to contact their local DNO for assistance and guidance. Details of the DNO should be available from the initial notification. Signs with DNO contact details are often attached to OHPL support structures. If you are still unsure a map and list of the DNOs, their [contact details and a post code finder](#) are available from the ENA website.

The DNOs are aware that HSE inspection visits are taking place and enquiries from inspectors and farm duty holders are likely.

HSE Electrical Engineering Specialist

Support is also available from your local Electrical Engineering Specialist inspectors.

Appendix 5 - Forestry

Introduction

In 2020/21 commercial forestry's **fatal injury rate was one of the highest of all industries** being around 12 / 100k workers (compared to 9 in agriculture when taken as a whole and 2 in construction). More specifically the Sector estimates the rate for chainsaw operators could be as high as 70/100k. Around 10 fatal treework (forestry and arboriculture) incidents occurred in 2021/22 (see [AFAG Initial Notifications of Arboriculture & Forestry Fatalities](#)). While not all of these are in agriculture SICs, (eg landscaping and tree care), forestry fatal incidents account for a sizeable proportion of the total fatal injuries and major injuries that fall in agriculture SICs and any reduction will improve the headline agriculture fatal injury figure of 41

To tackle the high rates of fatal injury, HSE challenged the industry to address its problems. In response, the industry formed the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA) with a membership that includes most of the larger forestry businesses and trade organisations as well as many SMEs and individuals. The primary aim of FISA is to develop and promote forestry good practice and raise the industry's health and safety standards.

The Agriculture Sector has been working closely with FISA (and the Arboriculture Association (often jointly)) at a national level to develop good practice and raise industry standards. This has recently resulted in the publication of several improved industry safety guides (HSE supported). Therefore, now is an ideal time to reinforce on site what we've been doing on several fronts and stress we will take enforcement action where standards are poor. This is particularly timely due to an **increase in fatal incidents last year**; something that has been noticed by the industry (who are focusing on this and taking action) and **recent public interest including media attention** (multiple industry articles, webinar requests and BBC radio interviews). The number of UK storms and disease in trees (eg ash die back) has massively increased the proportion of hazardous timber to be felled (much is wind blow) and competence and the right equipment is crucial.

The small number of inspections in this work stream will have a significant impact on this small tight knit industry. The new industry specific benchmark guidance, increasing current accident rate, previous advice and practical briefing day for inspectors should assist with taking firm, proportionate enforcement action.

Focus and aim

The focus of the forestry visits is on the **risk management / planning of chainsaw operations** by FWMs (Forestry Works Managers) including whether they are **selecting competent chainsaw operators**. Most serious and fatal accidents in this high-risk industry involve chainsaw operators being struck by a tree or part of it and competence is crucial. Often the chainsaw work is on marginal tree stock where machine felling is difficult perhaps due to tree size or location (steep ground).

FWM (Forestry Works Manager) competence should be explored to ensure they are able to identify key site specific (rather than generic) risks in their risk assessment and they have sufficient understanding of these risks to ensure selection and management of contractors, particularly competent chainsaw operators. This will involve exploring the FWMs relevant experience to the type of site being worked, in terms of their ability to achieve effective planning and running of the site.

Indicators of compliance are provided as tools for Inspectors to use to enable a judgement to be made on these planning and competence issues. These indicators are further detailed below and include reference to recently revised and new industry (FISA) guides on both the overall Management of H&S in forestry but also FWM and chainsaw competence. This industry guidance provides clear benchmarks for the Inspector to make enforcement decisions and are referenced in the forestry IEEs.

In addition, this OG item describes several **emerging machinery issues**. These machinery issues have been included **in the indicators of competence** and their use (required by the hierarchy of control for the selection of suitable equipment under PUWER) should result in reduced need for manual chainsaw felling thereby reduce risk.

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Health and safety

Inspectors should follow HSE's safety guidance: **Your H&S: Forestry** visits and **Your H&S: Lone Working**

It is intended for visits to be pre-arranged with the duty holder who is managing or carrying out the work, therefore inspectors will be accompanied by someone on site. However, if the opportunity of an unplanned visit arises, e.g. an active site is seen on passing, then an unaccompanied visit may be appropriate if the HSE safety guidance is followed.

The inspections are planned for the summer. There will be an increased risk of contracting Lyme disease from infected tick bites. Inspectors will be provided with a tick removal tool and should closely follow the guidance contained in the above Forestry guidance.

Appropriate PPE should be worn, including:

- Safety footwear, with ankle support;
- Safety helmet;
- High visibility jacket or waistcoat;
- Hearing protection;
- Long trousers tucked into your socks or boots and long-sleeved tops made from closely woven material, (to help prevent tick bites);
- Some duty holders may also insist on the use of gloves and eye protection. In addition to HSE's guidance, Inspectors should follow the duty holder's site procedures.

You should check the biosecurity status of the sites you are planning to visit with reference to current issues of Ash dieback and Phytophthora infection on Larch. It may be that disinfection is recommended and you should use the site's facilities. You will need to carry your own disinfectant. The relevant government website recommends Cleankill Sanitising Spray for use against forestry pathogens: **GOV advice on Biosecurity**. Further detail on obtaining the spray, including HSE's protocol and risk assessment will be provided at the Forestry briefing day (see below).

Targeting

Background for targeting and control of forestry sites:

Active forestry sites occur through two distinct contract methods. These are *standing sales* where the landowner sells the timber standing for another duty holder to harvest and has no further control over that site. Or *direct production* where the landowner organises the harvesting of the trees where control is maintained. There are several duty holders involved: Landowners, their managing agents, FWM, contractors and Estates. These roles are explained in the updated Managing H&S in Forestry: [FISA Guidance on Managing H&S in Forestry](#)

A contact list of the major duty holders who undertake the roles will be provided before the Q2 inspection period. You should use this contact list within a month of your intended inspection dates to identify and organise your visits to active sites. You should contact a variety of duty holders to ensure a good spread of visits which include large harvesting contracts, small estate work, ash dieback felling contracts and steep ground working (skyline or traction assist extraction). Be honest with FWMs that we need to get the message to those that need it, not those that already know, if we are to have an impact on the fatal and serious injury rate. Further guidance on visit selection will be provided in the briefing session.

If they are directly managing the forestry work, then they're the people, ideally, with whom you would want to visit the site. If acting as the landowner/managing agent then they will be able to provide a contact for the purchaser/ FWM, with whom the visit can be arranged.

Planned inspections will be focused on geographic areas where forestry is a key industry and mechanical harvesting work is likely to be common

- Scotland
- North East England
- Wales

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Heads of Operation via DST should advise Sector on which teams will be doing the work and provide names of inspectors who will attend the briefing session.

The Sector will provide enough targets for inspection so inspectors will be able to complete their programme of inspections within their own group's operational area. However, it would be helpful if some flexibility can be provided that would allow inspections outside of the normal operational areas if necessary and where travel times are not unreasonable.

The inspection visits should only be carried out by inspectors who have attended the **Forestry Briefing Day** to be held in May / June at Forestry England, Cannock. This one-day event has the objective of familiarising inspectors with:

- The background to the inspection programme
- Risk assessment and risk management during forestry operations including competency systems, chainsaw operations and mechanical harvesting.
- Chain shot from harvesting machines: Its generation and methods of preventing and protecting against it
- Site demonstrations showing emerging technology, good practice and indicators of poor practice (including modified forestry excavator winches, steep ground cable crane / winch (inc traction) assist), grapple saws, welfare);
- The Initial Enforcement Expectations (IEEs)
- Biosecurity and associated protocol, personal H&S and on-site risk assessment

Inspection

Overview - The focus of the forestry visits is on the **risk management of chainsaw operations** by FWMs including selection of relevant **chainsaw operators' competence** (matched to site risks). Incidents involving chainsaw operators account for most serious and fatal incidents in this high-risk industry.

Specifics: Inspections should focus on the adequacy of risk management on forestry sites (planning / site specific risk assessment) by the FWMs, particularly for chainsaw operations. This should include examination of selection and appointment of appropriately competent chainsaw operators, considering the site-specific risks.

Adequacy of this process can be measured against the newly introduced industry guidance: ([FISA Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry](#), [FISA FWM CPD outline](#) and [FISA Outline Chainsaw Competency System](#)) and with reference to the priorities and indicator tools outlined below.

The FWM has a key role in identification and management of risk - hence the development of the FISA FWM CPD outline. Their role is outlined in detail in the FISA Managing H&S in Forestry Guide (see weblink above) which follows CDM principles with the FWM being akin to the Principal Contractor (although not backed up by specific Regulations but by the generic 'person in control' duty under the Act etc). The FWM's competence to identify site specific (rather than generic) risks in their outline risk assessment and/ or with their contractors to be able to understand these risks to ensure selection and management of contractors is key and may require an experienced chainsaw operator to be involved at the planning stage.

The industry has an increasing number of young and inexperienced FWMs who may require supervision and support to achieve this. Most of the main FWM companies received *previous enforcement advice* in the form of HSE Letters (NoCs) during the 2018/19 round of forestry inspections as their systems to ensure competence were insufficient giving rise to a material breach.

Chainsaw operator competence has been based on the 'tickets' they hold and misses the importance of relevant accumulated experience to achieve competence. The [FISA Outline Chainsaw Competency System](#) incorporates the need for an experience log (often completed on line via phone App) and also provides agreed minimum industry competency levels, listing training and relevant experience at each development stage. Its use should be discussed with duty holders to encourage its implementation and it, or an equivalent system, should be evident in the FWMs outline risk assessment to ensure appointment of competent chainsaw operations. More detail will be

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provided at the briefing event.

At every site visit the adequacy of welfare facilities can be checked. Compliance is poor in commercial forestry. The Sector has worked closely with the industry and FISA to set out what is acceptable: see [FISA Welfare Guide](#) - **warm running water for washing and flushing toilet** (avoiding manual emptying unless very low numbers using) should be expected. See IEEs.

There will be **other activities** on site which can be inspected e.g. timber extraction (including steep ground cable crane / winch (including traction) assist), site transport/haulage and COSHH (pesticide application (see [FISA 102](#) & [FISA 202](#)) where welfare provision is particularly important). Matters of Evident Concern and Potential Major Concern should be dealt with as normal. They may include: no means of preventing public access, poor control of haulage and transport operations particularly near MOPs and no clear exclusion zones for chain shot risks. More information on these will be detailed at the inspector briefing day.

It is likely and expected that after site inspections there will be a need for inspectors to contact duty holders in the management chain who, whilst not on site, have a responsibility for H&S standards and may well also have committed a material breach if conditions are poor. Discussion with the Sector first is advisable.

Most inspections will be made by appointment and inspectors will be accompanied by a site representative. This does not prevent inspectors from making unannounced visits e.g. to a site found when passing. However, unannounced visits should only be made if the relevant safety guidance can be followed: **Your H&S: Forestry visits** and **Your H&S: Lone Working**

Initial enforcement expectations – Full details will be provided before the visits take place.

Recording

Please record in accordance with the current FOD recording guidance (TIG) using the **HRS priority sub sector group Forestry** on MS Forms. When requesting admin to raise the COIN cases for these visits please request they enter **#Forestry** in the summary title. The MS Forms template can be used and will assist the Sector with data analysis and evaluation.

Priorities

1. Chainsaw Operations risk assessment / planning including FWM competence

See - [FISA Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry](#) (particularly the FWM section @ GMHSF Forestry Works Manager Dec 2019 (9).pdf) which details the risk assessment process (at Section 2.7) that you should discuss with the FWM whose duty it is to coordinate and plan what is needed on site. Key areas are specific reference to identification of **windblow** (ideally referenced on site maps), the procedure for **hung up trees** (particular reference to mechanisation in these circumstances), how to deal with **edge trees** (including public protection and chainshot), **ash dieback** clearance (these can be brittle and mechanisation should be used). Risk assessment may be generic but **key site-specific details should be clearly outlined**, ideally on site plans.

When exploring the suitability of the risk assessment you should be able to assess the FWM's competence by using the industry framework tool - FWM competency FWM CPD

2. Chainsaw operators' competence

Enquire about duty holders knowledge and understanding of the [FISA Outline Chainsaw Competency System](#). Encourage its implementation {Please note that this is still in development (see FISA state of play statement and HSE Foreword @ Chainsaw (ukfisa.com)). However, as a minimum you should expect to see some form of log to record **chainsaw experience** (often now completed on line via phone app) in addition to training certificates.

The FWM should have matched the experience needed to the risk identified in the chainsaw risk assessment; this may require the involvement of an experienced chainsaw operator at the risk assessment stage (see Section 2.3 of Managing H&S in Forestry). Reference [NPTC City & Guilds](#)

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[National Chainsaw qualifications list](#) to identify the **relevant national training qualifications** as required in the PUWER ACOP (Reg 9 para 133) as mandatory

Note that training is only part of competence assessment, hence the need to check relevant experience (captured in the log).

Sector is aware some chainsaw operators have held tickets for many years yet may have limited variety of experience. They could also have developed poor custom and practice and are not actually competent. There is a requirement for 5 yearly **refresher / update training** in [Chainsaws at work INDG317 \(hse.gov.uk\)](#). The update / (**upskill**) element should be explored as an acceptable alternative to repeated refreshers of the same course. The Sector has identified that repeating basic felling courses rather than upskilling is resulting in under attendance at the following more advanced courses: **winch assisted fell, windblow, interwoven stems and part blown and felling medium/large trees (over 380 & 760mm) etc courses**. Analysis of incidents indicates these underattended courses cover common causal factors areas when dealing with more complex situations. Attendance at them should be encouraged especially when refreshers are due.

3. Machinery Safety

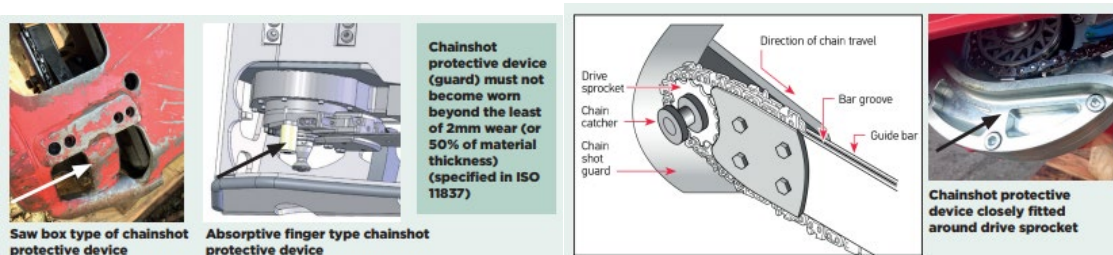
Management of chain shot from mechanical harvesters.

Chain shot occurs when the harvester head's chainsaw chain breaks and the loose end whips around the drive sprocket at the end of the saw bar causing it to accelerate and breakup further, with pieces of chain being emitted at ballistic speeds. These ejected pieces have the capability of travelling through, even protected, harvester operator windscreens and can travel long distances (100m or more) requiring large exclusion zones to be maintained

Inspection of the harvester head will be necessary to establish if the correct safeguards are in place and are adequately maintained and to aid the discussion about operational control issues. This will mean that you will need to arrange that the harvester and its operator are available at the visit. You should discuss access to the harvester with the FWM to avoid lengthy walks through difficult terrain where possible.

Ask the operator to position the harvesting head so that you can easily see the chainsaw bar, chain, and drive sprocket.

The issues to focus on are outlined in the [Chain shot - Speed of a Bullet \(ukfisa.com\)](#) with further useful description in [Chainshot - what is the risk? \(ukfisa.com\)](#) and the [Oregon Harvester Handbook](#)



Illustrations of main guard within the saw box; the chainshot guard / protective devices

Explore the operator and FWM's understanding of the risk and control of chain shot. More detail can be found on the Sector sharepoint pages see

<https://hse.gov.sharepoint.com/sites/AgricultureandForestryInformationPortal>

Winch extraction - including Traction Assist

Many of the trees currently being harvested in the UK are on steep ground necessitating extraction by use of chainsaw felling with cable crane (skyline) timber extraction [FISA 504 \(ukfisa.com\)](#). There is emerging traction assist technology to support harvesters / forwarders on slopes [FISA 505 \(ukfisa.com\)](#). It isn't uncommon to see modified excavators fitted with winches and masts to provide

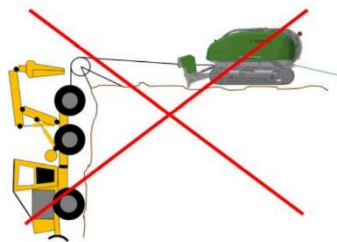
the skyline function. Some of these modifications are poor and you may need mechanical specialist assistance.



Modified excavator winch (vertical mast and winches added to boom)

Traction assist

Traction assist is a new technology for use on steep ground which helps meet the hierarchy of control (to mechanise) and removes the need for chainsaw operators to work on slopes beneath trees. It is designed to assist harvester/forwarders (supported machines) with traction to move around the site. Supported machines must be able to maintain their position on the hill ie: the traction assist should not be suspending it:



You should check FWM / contractors' knowledge of the following:

- **maximum gradient allowed** for safe support. Cable cranes should not be used where gradients are beyond supported machine and traction assist manufacturer safe limits.
- Traction Assist **tethering / anchoring** (tethering to trees or bucket into the ground with movement detection device)
- **Operator competency** with reference to FISA winch tethering course @ [FISA 505 \(ukfisa.com\)](https://www.ukfisa.com)
- **Movement detection device connections** - is there reliable and constant radio connection to supported machine particularly on convex hills? (see FISA Traction Assist update Oct 2021 @ [FISA 505 \(ukfisa.com\)](https://www.ukfisa.com)).



Photos of Traction Assist machines: Twinch and Timbermax

Modified machinery e.g.: modified excavator winch / skyline [FISA 504 \(ukfisa.com\)](https://www.ukfisa.com)

There has been an increasing use of excavators, rather than custom built forestry machines on forestry sites. This is because of their adaptability which has resulted in modified machines being used on sites. Machines are usually not CE marked for extraction purposes and may not been designed to relevant safety standards.

Common modifications are the addition of winches and sometimes a vertical mast on the boom. Sector have been engaging with the industry to increase awareness of the requirement for safe design and operator instructions when they are modified and FISA guidance is being created. This is in its early stages. To date there has been little evidence of risk arising from these machines, however the smaller excavators which are used for many uses such as digging, winching hung up trees and small scale skylining (high lead) timber extraction are the ones where there is some evidence of poor design and use that is resulting in fatigue wear and failure which could result in risk.

You should:

- Identify modifier of the machine and inform Sector of their details who will then deal with the CE marking issues, liaising with Safety Unit where necessary
- Enquire if stress calculations were used during design of the modification (no need to obtain details)
- Identify its uses ie: winching of hung-up trees / assisted felling winching / high lead timber extraction / digging (this should not occur with vertical mast in position on the boom due to the stresses this would exert)
- Explore inspection and testing under PUWER and depending on use (if lifting is involved) whether LOLER thorough examination is required with reference to HSE's [Lifting equipment in forestry - Treework - HSE](#). Seek sector support.

Grapple saws and Tree Shears

These machines are starting to be found in use in a number of environments, mainly in the arboriculture, construction and utility sectors however as they are an interchangeable piece of equipment they are occasionally found on forestry sites undertaking tree work. They meet the hierarchy of control aspects of machine selection i.e. to mechanise and remove the need for chainsaw operators beneath trees. However, they should be used in accordance with industry guidance to ensure they do not introduce new risks (see [FISA 608 \(ukfisa.com\)](https://www.ukfisa.com)).

If found on site check:

- **The suitability of the base machine** (excavators, cranes, lorry loaders (hiabs), telehandlers) particularly stability and FOPS/ROPS/OPS (Falling Object Protection

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/Roll Over Protection /Operator Protection)

- Potential production of **chainshot** (see safety alert [Tree Shears/Grapple Saws \(ukfisa.com\)](https://www.ukfisa.com/TreeShearsGrappleSaws))
- LOLER compliance – lifting is always involved when using these machines therefore lift plans (even if generic for the accepted range of use for the machine)

4. Welfare provision

Adequate welfare facilities as detailed above.

Guidance

Industry safety guides and bulletins are produced by FISA. These, along with Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the various forestry duty holders, can be found here: **FISA Safety Library**

Further forestry and chainsaw guidance can be found on HSE's **Treework Webpages**.

Sharepoint – forestry pages see

<https://hse.gov.sharepoint.com/sites/AgricultureandForestryInformationPortal> - this details additional information to help with technical aspects of inspection activity and gives indicator tools.

Forestry briefing day – inspectors doing the forestry work will be invited and receive specific briefing.

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Appendix 6 – Initial Enforcement Expectation tables for commonly seen issues in agriculture

NB: Should an Inspector identify there is (or is likely to be) a risk of serious personal injury arising from any of the situations below, then they should consider issuing a Prohibition Notice, regardless of the IEE indicated in the table.

Important - Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act applies to self-employed persons undertaking agricultural activities, even if they only put themselves at risk. This is specified in the Deregulation Act 2015 (Health and Safety at Work) (General Duties of Self-Employed Persons). Fee for Intervention should be applied as per the regulations and guidance.

In the following tables, references are given on where to find additional guidance in

- the HSE publication [What a Good Farm Looks Like](#) (WaGFLL),
- the Lantra training package,
- the HSE website.

Livestock – Housing and handling cattle		
• WaGFLL p10 • https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/livestock.htm • AIS 35 Handling and housing cattle		
Situation	IEE	Comment
Stock tasks are carried out on unrestrained animals	PN	Working on unrestrained animals presents a foreseeable and significant risk. If it is reasonably practicable that animals can be restrained, but are not, then a PN should be served.
Doors/gates in the race are operated from within the race	IN	Persons should not be mixed in with animals moving through a race. There should be segregation, and this is best achieved by the handlers being outside the race. Gates etc. need to be designed and installed so they can be operated from outside the race.
Working in the crush with an unsecured animal waiting in the race behind	Letter (NoC)	There should be arrangements in place to prevent the waiting animal entering the crush until the crush is empty
Crush does not have a self-locking gate, a yoke and rump rail/bar	Letter (NoC)	The crush should contain and secure the animal. If working near the head from outside the crush, additional head restraint may be required to prevent headbutting.
Bull being walked with no segregation without a bull pole or halter	IN	PN should be considered if this is a regular task that is or is likely to occur especially if it is a dairy bull.
Persons entering an enclosure when a bull is loose	PN	There should be a system of segregating or restraining a bull before entering any pen or enclosure.
No or inadequate bull pen for dairy bull	IN	AIS 35 gives the standard and requirements.
Gates or facilities not well	Letter	Poorly maintained facilities can present a risk that animals will escape, increase manual

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maintained, difficult to move	(NoC)	handling risk, and make noise that can alarm the cattle. Gates, fences can fall over etc if not properly maintained. Bailer twine is not suitable to hold cattle facilities together.
Unstable race or crush	PN	If they fall then they can cause serious injuries especially if animals are present.
No floor in Crush, and unsecured	PN	Without a floor, animals can move or walk off with a crush, or cause it to tip over.
Damaged floor in crush	Letter (NoC)	The floor needs to be maintained to prevent animals getting purchase on the ground beneath. Animals need a sure footing to remain calm.
Poorly designed facilities	IN	Good facilities are required along with a SSOW to ensure stock tasks can be carried out without risk of injury.

Livestock – Fields with public access

- [AIS 17ew Cattle and public access in England and Wales](#)
- [AIS 17s Cattle and public access in Scotland](#)

Dairy bulls of recognised breeds are kept in fields with public access	PN and consider PR	AIS 17 specifies the recognised breeds and no dairy bull should be in a field with public access. This is long established guidance.
Cows with calves at foot are grazed in fields with public access when there are fields available without public access	IN	A herd management approach is needed. When available land consists of fields with and without public access. The herd should always be managed to ensure potentially high-risk situations such as cows with young calves are not in fields with public access.
Cows with calves grazed in fields with a public right of way running through the field, but with no physical segregation in place. No other fields available to transfer cows.	IN	Where cows and calves must be kept in a field with public access due to no other available field without public access: where reasonably practicable segregation should be in place. This can be by temporary or permanent fencing, or electric fencing.
No signs at likely access points to fields to advise of beef bulls or cows with calves	Letter (NoC)	Signs should be present, not to warn of a risk (as animals that pose a risk should not be in the field), but to inform the public in case they want to take an alternative route.

Livestock – Field work

No suitable vehicle, or other effective means of escaping attack, used in field when carrying out tasks on stock	Letter (NoC)	The vehicle is a refuge.
No mobile handling facilities or SSW for stock tasks	IN	When separating animals especially calves, there should be adequate arrangements to ensure the mother or other animals in the herd cannot contact the handler.

Confined Spaces Asphyxiation and Drowning

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• WaGFL p12 • https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/welfare.htm#confined • https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics/permits.htm • Confined Space ACOP L101 • Confined Spaces a brief guide to working safely INDG258 • Managing slurry on farms - AIS9 • Managing confined spaces on farms - AIS26		
No or inadequate arrangements to ensure people stay out of livestock buildings connected to the slurry storage system during mixing/pumping	IN	Consider PN if people are inside a store with a slatted floor above slurry being stirred or agitated. Do not enter the building yourself
Confined space entry is likely to take place but there is no RA	IN	If there is a risk assessment and the person who has carried out it out is not competent an IN would be suitable
In-house staff are entering the confined space who have not been adequately trained	PN	Entering confined spaces is a hazardous activity and should only be done so by persons who have been adequately trained.
There is no SSOW for those entering a confined space	PN	If work is not going to be carried out within 21 days an IN may be considered
The RA or SSOW does not identify suitable RPE, and equipment to enable entry and emergency rescue	IN (PN if work being carried out at time)	Emergency arrangements should not rely solely on the emergency services
People standing over mixing points whilst mixing/pumping place	PN	The stirrer should be started, people then kept away from buildings and stirring points. After 30 mins can return to turn off stirrer (up wind) and move away again for at least another 30 mins. Do not approach the stirring point yourself
The personal capabilities of each individual entering the CS have not been assessed	IN	PN if the work is being carried on at the time of the visit, or from talking to those entering the CS medical issues are identified
RA and SSW not provided to those entering	PN	If work is being carried out without a safe system of work (SSW) or there is a SSW but it those entering have not been adequately instructed and informed
Gas detectors used as only protection where there is a risk of oxygen depletion or toxic gas	PN	Gas detectors are not suitable for preventing exposure to slurry gas. Gas can be released from pockets in the slurry unexpectedly and not in a uniform way. There will not be adequate time once the alarm raises to get a person out of the area
If PPE and detectors are used and they aren't calibrated and tested	PN	

Children

- WaGFL p8
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/children.htm>

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The Prevention of Accidents to Children in Agriculture Regulations 1998		
Situation	IEE	Comment
Unsupervised children are present in the workplace	PN	Adequate supervision can only be achieved if those supervising are not engaged in any aspect of a work activity.
No provision of a safe and secure play area away from the hazards of the farm	IN	It must be clearly understood and defined where the home stops and the work areas begin. Children must be provided with a safe and secure play area that adequately confines them to only safe locations.
Children under the age of 13 riding or driving agricultural vehicles	PN and consider PR	See the machinery /vehicles section of this table for more details.
Employees and visiting drivers etc. should be made aware that that they must stop if they see a child on the farm and make sure the child has been returned to a safe area	Letter (NoC)	This can be achieved by signs at the entry to the farm to warn that children may be present
Slurry lagoon not fenced	IN	Long established standard to prevent people (including children) falling into slurry.

Children on vehicles		
Child under 13 is a passenger in a tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine being used for agricultural work or which is travelling to or from such work.	PN and consider PR PACAR Reg 3	Only passengers over 13 may ride in these vehicles in connection with agricultural work, and only then when restrained within a passenger seat.
Child under 13 is a passenger in a trailer and not riding on its floor or on the load with adequate means to prevent the child falling.	PN and consider PR PACAR Reg 3	https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais36.pdf
Carrying passengers over 13 on mobile equipment without provision for carrying them safely.	PN and consider PR PUWER Reg 25	PN if adult passenger in tractor cab or similar vehicle without seat and seat belt. Their presence reduces access to vehicle controls, decreases visibility and represents a hazard to the driver in the event of a collision or roll over. Consider PR for higher risk, e.g. the passenger is on the outside of a vehicle, trailer drawbar, tractor linkage, cab steps, forks/buckets of materials handling equipment or on a single seat ATV.

Agricultural vehicles - WaGLL p3 https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/machinery/farm-vehicles.htm		
Situation	IEE	Comment

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Safe Site Inadequate pedestrian safety.	IN Workplace Reg 17	L24 ACoP safe segregation measures to focus on higher risk locations: • potato grading lines, • bale stacks and materials handling areas • building and yard entrances. Lighting: Consider Workplace Reg 8(1) if lighting is insufficient or unsuitable or PPE Reg 4(1) or 4(2) if high visibility clothing is absent but necessary.
Reversing when RP to not do so.	IN HSWA S2 or S3 Workplace Reg 17	L24 ACoP : The need for vehicles with poor rear visibility to reverse should be eliminated as far as possible, for example by using one-way systems. Establishing turning circles can also promote compliance.
LPG bulk store, or diesel tank no vehicle protection	IN	Notice to ensure vehicle protection is established.

Safe Operator Lack of formal training and test/assessment for operators of telescopic handlers, lift trucks and ATVs.	IN PUWER Reg 9(1)	Assess competence of operators: In the absence of formal training operators often cannot explain how to use load indicator chart on telescopic loader or the importance of correct tyre pressures and body positions when operating ATVs.
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Safe Vehicle		
Vehicle driven with open door or seat belt not worn.	IN HSWA S2 or S3	IN for replacing door or seatbelt inoperable. IN to establish arrangements for information, instruction to use seatbelts for operations with risk of rollover. Using tractors safely A step-by-step guide INDG185
ROPS cab structure corroded or damaged.	IN PUWER Reg 5(1) Agriculture (Tractor Cabs) Reg 3(8)	Defects in the condition of the structure should be repaired and inspected by a competent person. Note: Repair or modification to structural components of a tractor safety cab (e.g. by welding or drilling holes) will immediately invalidate the original Test Approval if this results in a material change. Reg 3(8) An approved safety cab shall cease to be approved if it is materially changed as a result of damage, alteration, neglect or any other cause
Driver visibility reduced:	Letter	

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dirty windows and mirrors, cameras.	(NoC) PUWER Reg 5(1)	
Driver visibility reduced: Broken or missing mirrors and visibility aids on telescopic handlers and tractors towing large trailers.	PN PUWER Reg 28(e)	Consider IN for cracked mirrors that are still largely complete
Inadequate visibility aids or audible warning aids on any vehicle.	IN PUWER Reg 28(e) or 24(1)	
Inadequate braking of any vehicle.	PN IN PUWER Reg 5(1)	Hydraulic lines on trailers should be attached and operation should move brake parts.
Poorly loaded vehicle.	IN WAH Reg 10	Consider the stability of products, overall weight and distribution, methods of retention, condition and suitability of the vehicle/trailer and restraints.

ATV Quadbikes		<u>Safe use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) AIS 33</u>
Head protection for sit-astride ATV not worn	PN/PR PPE Reg 4(1) or 4(2)	Consider PR if ATV being used, as opposed to just being available.
ATV tyre pressures not checked.	IN PUWER Reg 6(2)(a)	An accurate low pressure gauge (3-5psi) should be provided and the operator should know the pressure recommended by the manufacturer.
No pre-use check of ATV brakes and throttle.	IN PUWER Reg 6(2)(a)	Brakes should give a safe straight stop. Brakes can have a relatively short life in the farming environment and need frequent cleaning, regular adjustment and proper maintenance. The throttle should operate smoothly in all steering positions.
Lack of formal training and test/assessment for operators of telescopic handlers, lift trucks and ATVs.	IN PUWER Reg 9(1)	Assess competence of operators: In the absence of formal training operators often cannot explain how importance of correct tyre pressures and body positions when operating ATVs.

Machinery – Safe Use

- WaGFL p5

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http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/machinery.htm		
Situation	IEE	Comment
Machinery with missing / inadequate guards when: - Machinery in use - Use is imminent	PR	Access to dangerous parts of machinery - (Rotating shafts, powered rollers, chain and sprocket drives, etc) - where there is a foreseeability of coming into contact with the dangerous parts from the operating position or where maintenance with the machine running is undertaken
Inadequately guarded machinery: Machinery likely to be used imminently	PN	Access to dangerous parts of machinery (rotating shafts, powered rollers, chain and sprocket drives, etc) where there is a foreseeability of coming into contact with the dangerous parts when the machine is running or being maintained
Inadequately guarded machinery: Machinery likely to be used in the next 3 – 6 weeks	IN	Access to dangerous parts of machinery IN for guards to be replaced/fitted/repaired.
Operating mobile PTO driven equipment – inadequate PTO or PIC guards	PN and consider PR	PTO shaft is inadequately guarded and the machine is in use or is about to be used.
Operating mobile PTO driven equipment – inadequate PTO or PIC guards	PN	PTO shaft is not easily accessible eg close fitting linkage mounted sprayer.
Operating mobile PTO driven equipment – inadequate PTO or PIC guards	PN and consider PR	If damaged guard already reported to management and employee required to continue work (PR employer)
Suitability of work equipment – Use of unsuitable equipment for the task	PN	Where risk of risk of injury e.g. crushing / struck by falling objects. Examples include: - Excavator buckets used for driving fence posts, - bale spike used for lifting other than bales, - telehandler/forklift used as a makeshift vehicle lift during maintenance.
Operator training for self-propelled, trailed, stationary (e.g. grading lines, fleece and rope winding machines, grain dryers), or workshop machinery	IN	Where machine operator can be shown by lack of experience or accident, or by observed poor practice, to be in need of training to include. - Understand operating instructions, - safe start and stop the machine safely and from the correct position, - safe isolation and safely clear blockages. Training may be provided by the supplier (installation training), in-house, or for some equipment formal training is available (e.g. Lantra). Operators should have access to the

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		instruction manual.
Area around fixed or stationary machines not adequately lit, not clean, tidy and free from obstruction.	IN	Workplace Regs 8,9 & 12

Machinery _ Maintenance

- WaGFL p5
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/maintenance.htm>
- [PUWER Approved code of practice L22](#)

Situation	IEE	Comment
Safe isolation Operator is seen intervening with a machine without carrying out safe stop and isolation (e.g. clearing a blockage).	PN and consider PR	Operator is seen intervening with a machine without safely isolating the moving part eg clearing a blockage. Risk of machine restarting when blockage is cleared, or risk of other operators restarting machine during the maintenance intervention. Safe stop and isolation of trailed equipment needs to be considered (including stored energy in springs/hydraulics/pneumatics))
Safe stop Safe stop is not practiced and there are no alternative arrangements for preventing vehicle movement when the operator leaves the cab	IN	Where operator is seen leaving the vehicle operating position without applying the handbrake there is no maintenance ongoing but lack of use or lack of general awareness of Safe Stop is established from discussion
Maintenance work under vehicle/machine cabs, bodies, access covers or trailers that are not adequately supported	PN	Risk of vehicle/machine falling or descending in an uncontrolled manner. WAH Reg 10(1) Maintenance under raised vehicle/machine bodies, trailers, etc., without using designed equipment to support the load (axle stands etc and pins.) Also use of inappropriate lifting equipment, e.g. forklift/telehandler to raise vehicle/machine being maintained.
No systems for isolating or marking machinery that is not safe to use, e.g. during maintenance if guards are removed	IN	Disable or electrically isolate electrical machinery, lock-off and warning notices attached.
Maintenance workshops – electrics, pressure systems, cutting, welding, lifting equipment and accessories, etc		Treat as any other industry, e.g. MVR and enforce accordingly.

LOLER And Lifting

- WaGFL p5
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/maintenance-4.htm>

Situation	IEE	Comment
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Equipment which lifts loads such as telescopic handlers, lift trucks and fore end loaders on tractors without adequate operator protection or is operated where other people will be in close vicinity, has not been thoroughly examined at 12-month intervals.	IN LOLER Reg 9(3)(a)(ii)	
Equipment which lifts loads such as telescopic handlers, lift trucks and fore end loaders on tractors has not been thoroughly examined at 12-month intervals and there are no other workers at the farm	Letter (NoC) LOLER Reg 9(3)(a)(ii)	
Other lifting equipment not thoroughly examined in the last 12 months, e.g. workshop hoist	IN	Note: LOLER does not apply to three-point linkages on tractors, bale elevators, grain augers or tipping trailers but all of these will need to be maintained under PUWER
Lifting accessories not thoroughly examined every six months.	IN LOLER Reg 9(3)(a)(i)	
Equipment used to lift people not thoroughly examined every six months	IN LOLER Reg 9(3)(a)(i)	If item appears to be in poor condition, PN.
SWL not clearly marked on lifting equipment and accessories	IN	

Work At Height, Falls And Falling Objects

- WaGFLL p6
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/falls.htm>
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/index.htm>
- [Working at Height a Brief Guide indg401](#)
- [Health and Safety in Roofwork 5th edition 2020 HSG 33](#)
- [Fragile roofs Safe working practices GEIS5](#)
- [Safe use of ladders and stepladders INDG 455](#)

Situation	IEE	Comment
Working on a roof or at height where it is reasonably practicable to carry out the work without working at height	PN	Enforcement action will depend on the level of risk as to how quickly the work at height should cease.
Fixed access equipment Working on a roof or at height is	IN	The work at height hierarchy should be applied to the task to determine the safest reasonably

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taking place where control measures higher in the work at height hierarchy are not in place but are reasonably practicable to achieve. Includes unsuitable work equipment and if work is taking place from unsafe place, platform or surface.		practicable way of working safely at height. Ladders are near the bottom of the hierarchy and should not be accepted as a default option where other measures are safer and reasonably practicable. Where unsafe work at height practices are observed they should be prohibited.
Fragile roof / skylights Working on a roof or at height is taking place on or near to fragile materials and no means of preventing a fall through the fragile materials has been put in place. For example, holes/opening, fragile surfaces have not been covered or protected to prevent a fall through or into or through. Where purlins are walked.	PN and consider PR	Fragile materials should be treated as unprotected edges. Measures should be put in place to prevent or mitigate against falls. If no such measures are in place the inspector should prohibit any further work at height until such measures are in place Guidance is available Fragile roofs Safe working practices GEIS5
No perimeter edge protection and work is being carried out near an open edge.	PN and consider PR	Any open edge from which a person could fall should be protected and if there is a risk of a fall of a distance likely to cause personal injury a PN should always be considered.
No toe boards or other measures in place to prevent tools or material falling from an open edge	PN	This will include platforms, scaffolding as well as other work areas at height.
Ladder or other access equipment in poor condition	PN	See guidance Safe use of ladders and stepladders INDG 455
Falling objects No exclusion zone under and around work area where there is a risk of objects falling.	PN	Measures should always be taking to prevent items falling but on the rare occasions where there is a risk tools can be dropped or can fall, an exclusion zone should be in place.
Those erecting scaffolding or operating a MEWP have not been adequately trained	IN	
Access equipment is not inspected before use	Letter (NoC)	
Lifting equipment and accessories not thoroughly examined to lift persons (telehandlers, FLTs, man lifting cages, MEWPs, cherry pickers etc)	IN	If in poor condition PN
No risk assessment for work at height activities that are taking place on site or have and will take place on site	IN	PN if clearly unsafe working practices exist
Fragile roof materials not adequately marked or if this is not reasonably practicable communicated to persons working in the vicinity in another way	IN	Fragile roof signs required at all likely access points to fragile surfaces. Even in glass houses signs should be displayed. Some glass is designed to be walked upon, other glass is not. The duty holder should make all fragile

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		surfaces known.
Access to glasshouse roofs is not suitably controlled	PN	Where access is required to carry out cleaning, inspection or other work suitable measures should be in place to prevent falls. Any persons accessing glasshouse roofs should be properly trained and competent to do so.

Lifting Platforms

- [PM28 Working platforms \(non-integrated\) on forklift trucks](#)

Non-integrated man cages are used to lift people for routine tasks	IN	An IN should be considered depending on the risk. Where work can be planned, more suitable equipment can be used.
Raising persons unsafely e.g. on forks of a lift truck or telehandler / bucket on excavator / in a potato box lifted on forks	PN and consider PR	Risk of serious personal injury from fall. Man cages designed and inspected in accordance with HSE guidance PM28 may be used for non-routine unplanned work. They should also be used with suitable equipment e.g. a suitable FLT, or a telehandler where the tilt, side shift, chassis or mast levelling functions must not be capable of operating whilst the lifting platform is elevated
Work at height access equipment or accessories (tower scaffolds, pedestals, pop-ups mini towers, ladders, ropes, walk lines, carabiners, harnesses etc) are in an unsafe condition	PN	If there is a risk of persons falling distance liable to cause serious personal injury from use of unsafe equipment, then its use should be prohibited
Man lifting cage not constructed to any standard	PN	Man lifting cages must be constructed in line with PM28
Man lifting cage does not have a current thorough examination certificate	IN	If corroded damaged and considered dangerous PN
Man riding basket being used on a telehandler that can lift higher than 6m	PN	Non-integrated platforms on telehandlers reaching above 6m should not be used. Alternative measures need to be taken to provide access to heights above 6m, such as integrated man riding baskets, or other suitable working platforms.
Man riding cage used with a telehandler with no or defective anti-tilt lock	PN	An anti-tilt lock must be fitted and must be working.
Worker riding on trailer with no means of preventing falls	PN	Workers should not ride on trailers without a means to prevent falls. Where workers do need to get access to the trailer to load or sort stock it should be done while the trailer is not moving.

Bales And Falling Objects

- WaGFL p7
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/falls.htm#bales>

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• Safe working with bales in agriculture - INDG125 • Opening hay, haylage and silage bales – AG6 • Safe use of big round balers - AIS4 • HSE website - maintenance of plant and equipment • Working safely with agricultural machinery - INDG241		
Bale stacks not stacked on firm, dry and level ground	IN	If bales are not stacked on firm, dry level ground, it is foreseeable deterioration will occur. A PN should be served if the stack is unstable at the time.
Bale stacks are seen to be unstable	PN	
If stacks are not tied/interlocked or stepped back in line with INDG125	IN	A safe system of work will need to be in place until the IN is complied with to ensure persons aren't in the area. If this can't be achieved a PN should be served preventing access to the area until the bales have been restacked.
Bale stacks are constructed under OHPLs	IN	A PN may need to be considered to prevent work until OHPL's have been turned off if there is risk of contact.
Rider operated equipment being used to lift bales without FOPS fitted	PN	
Work is being or will be carried out near the edges of stacks or trailer beds	PN	PN should be served if the work is observed and there is an immediate risk to prevent a fall of a distance likely to cause personal injury
Bale stacks are not regularly inspected for signs of deterioration	Letter (NoC)	Even stacks properly constructed in line with INDG125 should be regularly inspected.
Those tasked with stacking or de-stacking bales have not received adequate information and instruction and there is no SSW	IN	Stacking is a skill and it essential there is a Safe System of Work and instructions on how to construct stacks and de-stack in line with INDG125
Bales transported on trailers are not secured	Letter (NoC)	If being carried out and there is a risk to persons or structures a PN would appropriate. Consider PR if trailer is about to be taken on public highway.
People not kept well out the way of any loading/unloading of bales	PN	Pedestrians should be excluded from areas where bales could fall during loading or unloading
Big bales are being moved by hand	PN	Big bales can weigh up to 600kg so as well as the risk of them falling onto people, they present a significant risk manual handling risk if they are being handled by hand.
Round bales are stacked on their end	IN	Stacking on the ends can compromise the integrity of the stack. They should be stacked in their sides, chocked and as described in INDG125.
Round bale stacks are visibly unstable	PN	Persons should be prohibited from being near the stack and only lifting equipment with FOPS used to remedy the stack
Electricity _ Overhead Power Lines (OHPLS)		
WaGLL p9 – LANTRA workbook p40		

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GS6 Avoiding danger from overhead power lines AIS8 Working safely near overhead electricity power lines Energy Networks Association guidance, leaflets including Look Out Look Up, and printable cab stickers from ENA website		
Situation	IEE	Comment
Location of OHPLs on farm not mapped and/or maximum working height/minimum clearance distances to be maintained are not known	IN	The dutyholder needs to know both the location and the maximum working height/minimum clearance to be maintained so this can be compared to the height/reach of machines and work planned to minimise the risk of contact. The location of OHPLs and maximum working height/reach can be marked on farm map. Dutyholder should contact their local Distribution Network Operator (DNO) for advice and help measuring OHPL actual heights or if they suspect OHPLs may be below the legal minimum, e.g. 5.2m for 11kV (see AIS8 and GS6 for other voltages) HSWA, MHSWR
No plan for minimising risk of contact with OHPLs	IN	Compare line heights/minimum clearances to maximum height/reach of farm machinery. Plans may include: avoiding work near OHPLs, ensuring there is enough clearance for the machines, purchasing policies for machines. Planning to avoid would include; designated tipping, folding, storage, stacking areas away from OHPLs., designated routes for tall/high reach vehicles (possibly with combination of signage and goalposts), planning planting to reduce risks during harvesting, e.g. leaving areas below OHPLs uncultivated, drilling row crops parallel to OHPLs, harvesting parallel to OHPLs to minimise passing under with high machinery. A map on it's own does not constitute a plan – duty holders must demonstrate they have given due consideration to all of these factors. I, I & T for farm workers and measures to inform contractors and visiting drivers. HSWA, MHSWR Reg 3,4,5,8 10 & 11, PUWER Reg 4,8 & 9, EAWR 4(3) & 14
Following activities carried out within 10m horizontal distance from OHPLs without additional advice from the DNO: - Stacking bales, fertiliser bags or potato boxes - Erecting temporary structures such as polytunnels - Folding sprayer booms - Tipping trailers or lorries with	PN	These activities should be avoided within 10m horizontal distance. If they cannot be avoided the dutyholder will need to contact the DNO for advice, e.g. re-routing the line, temporarily making the line dead, or assessing the risks and agreeing a safe system of work with the DNO. This may involve physically limiting the height/reach of machines, the erection of barriers and goal posts, etc. to keep machinery at a safe height or a safe distance away. HSWA, EAWR 1989 Reg 4(3) and 14

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tipping bodies - Operating lift trucks or materials handlers - Working on top of combines or other high machinery - Moving or storing ladders, scaffold tubes or irrigation pipes - Tree work - Fencing - Assemble/dismantle boom irrigation sprayers		N.B. If work near OHPL is required to comply with enforcement notices, e.g. removal of stacks from below OHPL this will need to be carefully planned and controlled with advice from the DNO.
Building up land beneath OHPL so minimum clearance is reduced to less than legal minimum (e.g. 5.2m 11kV)	PN	Prohibit work if ongoing. Prohibit use of high/variable reach machines, stacking materials, storage, etc in those areas until rectified. DNO will need to be contacted to raise OHPL height or re-route. HSWA, EAWR 1989 Reg 4(3) and 14
Use of a rain or slurry gun within 30m (greater distance in high winds)	PN	Position guns so that jets cannot contact the OHPL. Guns should travel parallel to the OHPL not below them. Check breaker devices (that interrupt the jet) are working because a continuous jet could conduct electricity.
Farm workers unaware of location of OHPLs, precautions to take, and action to take in the event of contact with an OHPL.	IN	Farm should have systems in place to ensure all farm workers, contractors (e.g. hedge trimming, harvesting, spraying), and visiting drivers (e.g. feed or aggregate tipping lorries) have information on the location of OHPLs and farm precautions. DNOs will provide cab stickers for free or dutyholders can print their own from the ENA website. HSWA, PUWER Reg 8 & 9, MHSWR Reg 10 & 11
No signage indicating presence of OHPLs or prohibiting high risk activities (e.g. tipping)	IN	Part of the farms wider control measures already covered above.

Electricity _ Electrical Systems and Portable Equipment

- WaGFL p21
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/electricity.htm>
- [INDG231 \(rev1\) Electrical Safety and you.](#)
- [INDG236 \(rev3\) Maintaining portable electric equipment in low-risk environments](#)
- [HSG107 \(Third edition\) Maintaining portable electrical equipment](#)
- [HSR25 \(Third edition\) The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 Guidance on Regulations Guidance Note](#)
- [PM29 Electrical risks from steam/water pressure cleaners](#)

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INDG68 Do you use a steam/water pressure cleaner?		
Situation	IEE	Comment
Poorly designed or badly maintained fixed electrical systems that are dangerous	PN	Fixed systems should be properly designed. Consumer units, switches, wiring, sockets and plugs all in good condition. EAWR 1989 Reg.4(1)
Fixed systems not inspected	IN	Inspection and testing by a competent electrician. HSE guidance gives no recommended interval. BS7671 IET Wiring Regulations 18 th Edition recommends maximum period of 3 years for agricultural and horticultural settings. LANTRA workbook recommends testing by a qualified person at least every 5 years. EAWR 1989 4(2)
Power cables to fixed machines not adequate. Covers to electrical equipment open.	IN	Power to machines should be in armoured cable or installed in conduit with a good earth connection. Emergency cut off switched close to all fixed machines. Keep all covers closed. EAWR 1989 Reg 4(1), 6, 7
Sockets used outdoors and / or damp/corrosive atmospheres, or where they can be reached by steam or water jets. Ingress protected (IP) plugs should be in use with RCD protection	PN	RCDs should also be tested regularly using the 'test' button. EAWR 1989 4(1) and 6
Portable equipment damaged, e.g. cracked housings, damaged cables exposing inner wires/conductors, cable glands/chord grips pulled out, broken plugs	PN	PN if immediate risk e.g. in use and exposed live conductors or risk of ingress water. IN for maintenance/inspection/testing regime. Users should undertake brief visual checks. PAT (portable appliance testing) to follow guidance. http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg107.pdf EAWR 1989 Reg 4(2)
Domestic 240v tools used outdoors without RCD	PN	Electrical tools used outdoors or where there is a lot of earthed metalwork should be reduced voltage (110v) or connected through an RCD. Suggest using alternatives, e.g. air or battery tools. EAWR 1989 Reg 4(1)
Pressure Washer used without IP rated plug and RCD	PN	EAWR 1989 4(1) & 6. Do you use a steam/water pressure cleaner? http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg68.pdf and <i>Electrical risks from steam/water pressure cleaners Guidance Note PM29</i> http://www.hse.gov.uk/pUbns/priced/PM29.pdf

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Electricity _ Underground Cables

- [HSG47 Avoiding danger from underground services](#)
- [ENA leaflet 'Watch out Cables About'](#)

Situation	IEE	Comment
Excavation (or other ground penetration) being undertaken where buried cables are likely to be present but no plans, cable location or safe digging practices undertaken.	PN	Unless the landowner can be certain that no cables have been buried in the past they should assume they could be present. Buried cables are more likely near farm buildings, sub-stations or other fixed electrical equipment, at termination of overhead power lines, and any other places where cables can be seen emerging from the ground. The dutyholder can ask the DNO for location plans (free service). A trained and competent person should locate cables using cable detection techniques (CAT/Genny). Safe digging techniques used where cables are present. EAWR 1989 Reg 4(3) and 14. If construction work also CDM 2015 Reg 25(4)

Asbestos

- WaGFLL p13
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/>
- [L143 Managing and working with asbestos Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. Approved Code of Practice and guidance](#)

Situation	IEE	Comment
No Asbestos Management Plan	IN	Farms should have an up to date Asbestos Management Plan. Sector can provide an example plan to include with any Notice or Letter (NoC).
ACMs not clearly marked	IN	Asbestos warning signs required to be in situ
Absence of contractor arrangements to communicate management plan and location of ACM's	IN	Contractors should be provided with the asbestos management plan and adequate information to allow them to plan and safely carry out work
ACMs in poor condition and no action taken	IN	ACMs obviously deteriorating and no plans or action to control/contain/manage

Musculo-Skeletal Disorders

WaGFLL p14

- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/manual-handling.htm>
- [Manual Handling at work; Getting help with manual handling](#)
- [MAC Tool](#)

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• Assessment of Repetitive Tasks (ART) tool • Upper Limb Disorder Risk Assessment Worksheets for more detail than the ART • Risk Assessment for Pushing and Pulling RAPP		
Situation	IEE	Comment
Hazardous manual handling / repetitive tasks could be eliminated.	IN	Hazardous manual handling / repetitive tasks that pose a risk of serious personal injury can often be eliminated through automation (such as using conveyor belts, use of mechanical means etc.).
No risk assessment	IN	The risk assessment should assess the task, the individual, the load, and the environment. The risk assessment may be a simple MAC or ART assessment, or it may need to be a full risk assessment which fully considered those elements set out in Schedule 1 of MHOR
Mechanical aids are reasonably practicable	IN	Manual handling / repetitive tasks can often be reduced through provision of mechanical aids (such as provision of trolleys, lifting tables etc.)
Ergonomic design of the workstation would be reasonably practicable	IN	The design of the workstation (e.g. at potting stations) can often be improved to reduce periods of poor body posture e.g. repetition of upper body movement, bending, twisting etc.
Job rotation, rest breaks are specified in the risk assessment as a control measure but in practice they are not happening on the shop floor	IN	Job rotation / frequent short breaks are reasonably practicable ways of reducing the risk from hazardous repetitive tasks. If significant risk can be reduced through job rotation / rest breaks and it is a control measure that is specified in the risk assessment, then it is for the company to ensure that it is implemented.
Information instruction and training to staff carrying out handling using SSOW including handling equipment.	IN	Provision of manual handling training should not be a first option. Elimination assessment and reduction should be considered first. Training should be relevant to the tasks which the individual is required to perform and should cover: manual handling risk factors and how injuries occur, safe manual handling techniques, systems of work for the tasks, use of mechanical aids, practical work to allow trainer to identify and remedy poor technique.

Welfare (Zoonoses)

- WaGFL p16
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/zoonoses.htm>
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/cosHH/industry/agriculture.htm>
- [L24 Workplace health, safety and welfare. Workplace \(Health, Safety and Welfare\) Regulations 1992. Approved Code of Practice and guidance](#)
- [INDG 293 Guidance for employers on welfare provisions](#)

Situation	IEE	Comment
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Failure to provide suitable and sufficient toilets.	IN	Toilets to the standard and number set out in L24 should be provided at static farm sites. However Reg 20 (provision of toilets) applies to farming away from the farmyard (e.g. a field) SFAIRP. If farming equipment can be taken to the field then so should welfare provisions if the activity will last for any amount of time that it is likely that employees will need welfare provision.
Toilets are provided but they are not up to standard e.g. not clean, do not have lockable doors etc	IN	Enforcement to establish suitable arrangements for cleaning and maintenance.
Failure to provide washing facilities to the level required by the regulations	IN	Static farm site – follow L24 . Construction guidance is useful: https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisk/s/welfare/toilets-and-washing.htm Washing hands and forearms prior to eating is a high priority for agriculture due to additional risks from zoonoses . If the activity will last for any amount of time that it is likely that employees will need welfare provision.
Washing facilities on the premises do not meet the standard specified in the regulations	IN	Wash basins with hot and cold (or warm) running water, soap and towels (or a hand dryer) – basins should be large enough to wash forearms
Failure to provide drinking water	IN	Reg 22 (provision of drinking water) applies to farming away from the farmyard SFAIRP. Adequate supply of drinking water can be provided. It is reasonably practicable to take sufficient supply of bottled water for employees required to work away in the fields etc If shared supply of drinking water is provided then cups should also be provided.

Occupational Lung Disease

- WaGFLL p15
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/asthma/agriculture.htm>
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/cosHH/industry/agriculture.htm>
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/dust/index.htm>
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/welding/index.htm>
- [HSG129 Health and safety in engineering workshops](#)

Situation	IEE	Comment
Welding in buildings with no mechanical means of fume extraction.	IN	Welding in agriculture is frequently of short duration or in the open air. Some farms may have a dedicated workshop

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		and do a significant amount of fabrication. Follow general industry guidance, particularly mindful that all steel is considered a carcinogen (2020).
High dust area, no extraction and no RPE	IN	RPE with a minimum APF of 20 e.g. FFP3
High dust area, Vehicle Cabs with no ventilation no RPE.	IN	Vehicles fitted with suitable ventilation and adequately maintained will prevent significant exposure to dusts where processes are generating dust (e.g. straw chopping). RPE with a minimum APF of 20 e.g. FFP3 where significant dust is generated.
Cleaning no vacuum or wet cleaning and no RPE: E.g. stiff brushes, flails or compressed air.	IN	Methods should consider: damping down or wet mopping or not using a vacuum cleaner and not wearing RPE with a minimum APF of 20 eg. FFP3 where significant dust is generated.
RPE not maintained or no face fit test for tight fitting masks	IN	Incorrectly fitted or maintained RPE will not provide the protection required.
Health surveillance absent and the dust controls are not fully effective, resulting in a possible risk of occupational asthma and COPD	IN	Consider guidance: https://www.hse.gov.uk/health-surveillance/index.htm Discuss with Occupational Health

Noise

WaGFL p17

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/noise.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/index.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/calculator.htm>

Situation	IEE	Comments
Exposure is above the exposure limit value (LEP,d of 87 dB). OR Exposure is likely to exceed the upper exposure action value (LEP,d of 85 dB)	IN	Noise Regulations Require a programme of work to reduce exposures to ALARP Consider: - On vehicle noise – tractor / telehandler cabs, quadbikes, skid steer etc. - Fixed equipment – workshops, Animal feeding HPZs as for other operations.

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No reduction measures in place,	Portable tool use Consider daily and weekly exposures. https://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/calculator.htm Potential solutions are described in construction guidance: https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/physical-ill-health-risks/noise.htm
Rough Guide on Noise Risk Assessment It is likely that the upper exposure action value (LEP_d of 85 dB) will be exceeded if: - You have to raise your voice to talk to someone about 2 m away and employees are exposed to the noise for most of the working day; - You have to raise your voice to talk to someone about 1 m away and employees are exposed to the noise for more than two hours.	

Vulnerable Workers

- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/vulnerable-workers/index.htm>
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/landlords/index.htm>
- [Guidance on provision of caravan accommodation for temporary workers in the UK \(Fresh Produce Org\)](#)

Situation	IEE	Comment
No current Landlord Gas Safety Record for gas appliances which have been provided by the farm to the worker as part of the living accommodation (building or caravan)	IN	Gas appliances provided by the farmer to workers with the caravan or accommodation should be checked by a competent and registered gas engineer every 12 months. A copy of the certificate should be given to the tenant within 28 days. The farmer (landlord) should retain copies of previous LGSCs for 2 years.
Worker sleeping accommodation is not set away from main farm activities	IN	Temporary accommodation such as caravans should be sited away from the main farm activity
No means to fight small fires e.g. extinguisher	IN	Fire extinguishers or a hose may be required depending on the risk
Caravans should be properly spaced as a control measure in the event of fire	IN	Adequate space between caravans: a minimum 6 m separation is recommended

Pesticides And Material Storage

WaGFL p18
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/pesticides.htm>

Many aspects of pesticide storage and use are subject to requirements under legislation specific to plant protection products, not the Health and Safety at Work Act. You may not have the appropriate Warrant to take action. If during the visit you identify any issues regarding storage or use of pesticides, you should contact Agriculture Sector or an NPET Inspector for advice on how to proceed.

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However some aspects of other materials stored in or near to the pesticides can be dealt with as detailed below.

Pesticides found outside of locked store	IN	Enforce under COSHH for safe storage
Stores have incompatible materials in or around them e.g. Flammable liquids and LPG stored with pesticides	IN	Enforcement under DSEAR. Using RGP for the materials: LPG storage and associated pipework (e.g. underground pipework; security of store and proximity of vehicles) HSE LPG topic, LPGA codes of practice Flammable liquids and solids, diesel, petrol etc • HSG51 The storage of flammable liquids in containers, • Guidance for the Storage of Intermediate Bulk Containers, • HSG71 Chemical warehousing: The storage of packaged dangerous substances • INDG 230 Storing and Handling Ammonium Nitrate

Chainsaws

- WaGFLL p19
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/forestry.htm>
- [INDG 317 Chainsaws at work](#)
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/treework/safety-topics/chainppe.htm>

For Planning, Risk Assessment and hierarchy of control (mechanization eg: use of grapple saws/tree shears) see Forestry IEEs For work at height see lifting platforms and roof work.

Situation	IEE	Comment
Absence of formal training and assessment for operating a chainsaw on or inside trees, including crosscut work on fallen branches.	IN	PUWER 9 (1) ACoP requires appropriate training and either a relevant certificate of competence or a national qualification to assess whether training was understood. Various courses and qualifications are available, see SIM 01/2004/02. Note – Important exception If the chainsaw use is done as part of agricultural operations, such as hedging, clearing fallen branches or pruning trees to maintain clearance for machines, and the operator first used a chainsaw before 05/12/98, see row below.
Absence of formal training for chainsaw use as part of agricultural operations where the operator first used a chainsaw before 05/12/98.	IN	A certificate of competence or a national qualification is not mandatory in these specific circumstances, <u>but the operator must still be adequately trained</u> . Such training should include the dangers from the chainsaw, the task, the necessary controls and relevant

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		legal requirements.
Absence of training for other chainsaw work (cutting firewood, furniture, pallets etc).	IN	A certificate of competence or a national qualification is not mandatory for these tasks, but the operator must still be adequately trained. Such training should include the dangers from the chainsaw, the task, the necessary controls and relevant legal requirements.
No chainsaw refresher/update training or frequency of such training exceeds guidance.	Letter (NoC)	The view of industry, training providers and sector is that for a chainsaw operator's training to be adequate, refresher/update training should be undertaken at regular intervals: • Occasional users every 2-3 years • Full time users every 5 years IN for refresher/update training, in addition to other enforcement, is appropriate if there is evidence of unsafe work.
Tree felling within two tree lengths of OHPLs or branch removal within 10 metres of OHPLs without required controls and competencies in place.	PN and consider PR	EAW Reg 4(3) - Such work should only be done by professional arborists, typically utility arboricultural contractors, which have liaised with and notified the Network Operator (or are working for them) and are operating in accordance with their specialist advice and guidance.
Presence of persons other than chainsaw operator within two tree lengths of tree being felled should under normal circumstances not be allowed.	PN and consider PR	WAH Reg 10(2) This describes felling where the chainsaw operator stands on the ground and fells the entire tree without reducing its height first. Persons may be within two tree lengths if a tree is sectionally felled (i.e. sections are cut off one at a time by an operator inside a MEWP or climbing with ropes), but persons on the ground still need to remain outside of any danger zone to prevent injury from falling arisings and equipment.
Defects with or absent chain brake, chain catcher or front & rear hand guards.	PN	PUWER Reg's 5(1) or 11(1) See Page 7 of INDG317 for illustration of these controls.
Defects with or absent anti-vibration mounts.	IN	VAW Reg 6(1) Machine to be repaired or replaced.
Defects with or absent silencer.	Letter (NoC)	NAW Reg 6(1) - Machine to be repaired or replaced.
Inadequately tensioned chain.	Letter (NoC)	PUWER Reg 5(1) - There should be no visible sagging of the chain under the bottom of the bar. Sign of poor maintenance, risk of chain coming off guide bar.
Absence of or badly damaged	IN/PN	PPE Reg 4 or Reg 7

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helmet, chainsaw trousers, chainsaw boots, hearing protection or eye protection for all types of chainsaw work.		See http://www.hse.gov.uk/treework/safety-topics/chainppe.htm for details of specifications. PN – saw in use and no chainsaw trousers. Helmets provide some protection against kickback to the head which is why they are still required for chainsaw work even where there is no risk from falling objects.
No gloves worn for certain tasks or they are badly damaged.	Letter (NoC)	PPE Reg 4 or Reg 7 - Type of glove will depend on a RA of the task and the machine, considering the need for protection from chainsaw contact, thorny material, cold/wet conditions and where relevant, to assist with rope climbing.