

Title	Management of equipment containing hazardous fluids or pressure	
Publisher/Author	HSE	
Publication Date	2006	
Executive Summary	<p>The purpose of this report is to increase awareness of the factors to consider when managing equipment containing hazardous fluids or pressure, and to help those responsible for equipment to understand and assess the risks of accumulated damage and deterioration. The information is at a general rather than an equipment-specific level, and can be applied to a wide range of static equipment and associated machinery.</p> <p>The management of equipment begins with an awareness that ageing is not about how old the equipment is, but is about what is known about its condition, and the factors that influence the onset, evolution and mitigation of its degradation. Once the symptoms of ageing are understood, and detected from inspection, a decision can be made how to proceed. The options can include putting together a case to justify continued service, re-rating, repair, or scrapping the equipment.</p> <p>In addition to the engineering aspects, there are important managerial issues that should also be considered. The company culture and defined roles and responsibilities are discussed in relation to managing equipment. These are affected by staff demographics, along with skills, training and competencies. The importance of maintaining documentary information and records throughout equipment life is also highlighted.</p> <p>First time readers of this report may wish to start by looking at the contents list to find topics of specific interest, or to go directly to the Audit Tool (Appendix 1) on page 105. The Audit Tool summarises much of the information in a list of 17 questions for consideration. A series of case studies in Appendix 2 provides practical illustrations of some of the information.</p> <p>The report is offered to industry and regulators as an aid to assist their own thinking rather than as prescriptive practice. It is to encourage good and efficient management and will be revised as required to reflect experience.</p> <p>Finally, the authors would like to thank all the many individuals and organisations that have contributed to the development of the report. They also acknowledge the support of the Health and Safety Executive.</p>	
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