



Manufacturing: Health and safety checks

At Marsh Commercial, we understand that running your business while simultaneously keeping on top of your health and safety obligations can be tough. That’s why we work behind the scenes to provide you with refreshingly human advice and support to help you when it comes to health and safety.

Why?

Conducting, monitoring, recording and reviewing your health and safety protocol is essential. Without sufficient checks in place, you not only put you and your business at risk, but you place employees, clients and customers in harm’s way too.

The cost of getting it wrong? Key figures for Great Britain (2019/20) highlight:¹

- 693,000 working people sustain an injury at work.
- 38.8 million working days lost due to work

- related illness and workplace injury.
- £16.2 billion estimated cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions (2018/19).

Getting started

To give you a helping hand with your duties, our experts have shared a handful of key questions they ask manufacturing businesses when inspecting their site.

Area	Activity	Yes / no
PPE	Is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to safely carry out certain jobs? If so, is everyone adhering to the policy?	
Noise	Do you have an up-to-date noise assessment for relevant departments and each piece of equipment?	
Noise	Have you put sufficient controls in place to reduce noise levels as much as reasonably possible? And have you provided employees with training around the hazards of noise, and hearing protection?	

Fork lift trucks (FTL's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a procedure in place for things like restricting the speed they travel? Or if they need warning lights, a horn or mirrors for around blind corners? • Do your FTL's have warning lights etc? • Do you ask employees to remove ignition keys from FLT's when they aren't using them? • Are speed-limiters applied to fork lift trucks or is there a maximum speed of travel permitted? • If you have any low structures (like a roller shutter door, for example) below where the fork lift needs to operate, do you have a means to warn the driver in case they're travelling with the mast extended?
Stock	Do you safely store all raw materials and completed stock? Is your racking inspected regularly?
Machine Guarding	Do you have sufficient guarding fitted to equipment? This includes things like interlocks, distance guards, fixed guards and light beam guards, for example.
Flammable Liquids	Are you within the maximum quantity of flammable liquids permitted or agreed with the fire officer?
Gas	If you use gas cylinders, are they chained to prevent them falling over? And are your replacement and empty cylinders stored correctly in a suitable, designated cage?
Spray Booths	Do you change the filters in paint spray booths? And do you keep a record of any changes?
RPE	Have you thoroughly assessed the need for respiratory protective equipment (RPE)? Is the correct equipment being used? And do you undertake face fit testing?
Documents	Do you have shift supervisors who monitor your employees and workshop? And do they document any issues they deal with?

Remember...

These are just a few of the checks you should be making.

Did you answer no?

If you answered no to any of the questions above, then you could be breaching health and safety laws, which puts you, your business and your employees at risk. And remember, answering yes doesn't mean you're in the clear. There are plenty more checks to be made, and health and safety is by no means a one-off job.

Did you answer no?

Our health and safety experts will visit your business, conduct a robust inspection, identify any areas in need of improvement and provide you with a detailed action plan, to make sure your business is on top of legislation.

Get in touch with your Marsh Commercial Account Executive or email us as at riskmanagement@marshcommercial.co.uk for more information.

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