

# Alan Boswell

## Risk Management

What to expect from  
engineering inspections

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Alan Boswell Risk Management (ABRM) provide independent and impartial inspection services, carried out by our competent, technically-experienced engineers, in accordance with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER), Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (PSSR) and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH).

### Complying with the law

It is your legal responsibility as the owner/user of the plant to ensure your plant is inspected in accordance with the relevant legislation. ABRM are here to help and assist you with any advice in complying with the law.

### How will the inspection be arranged?

We will contact you directly to arrange a mutually convenient date and time to conduct the inspections. We will never turn up without making an appointment.

### Do I need to prepare for the inspection?

To help us ensure the inspection is carried out with minimal disruption to your business, we need you to prepare for our engineer's visit. Plant will need to be accessible and may require you to dismantle and reassemble as required by our engineer.

For some items, it is sometimes necessary for the engineer to request a third party to be present to assist with the inspection i.e. for a thorough examination on an Air/Oil Receiver, your service engineer will be required to be present to drain the vessel in order to give our engineer access to the internals of the vessel.

Rest assured, we will always explain the level of preparation required when making the appointment with you.

### How long will the inspection take?

Due to varying complexity of plant, the time the inspection will take can vary. However our engineer should be able to give a general indication of their expected time with you, based on their experience and knowledge.

### What can we expect during the inspection?

An inspection can vary considerably from a visual inspection to a more detailed comprehensive examination including dismantling and testing.

The inspection will concentrate on those safety-related parts, which are necessary for the safe operation of work equipment. The purpose of an inspection is to identify defects which could cause an injury.

### What am I required to do with regards to general defects / observations?

Our engineer will identify general defects and/or observations which will require attention between now and the next inspection. The engineer will deem the plant safe to use under normal operating conditions.

## What is a serious defect?

If our engineer finds a defect during the thorough examination and/or inspection which in their opinion is, or could become, a danger to people, they will tell you immediately and will issue a Serious Defect Report.

The Serious Defect Report will give details of the defect and what action is required in order to rectify the defect.

Our engineer will ask you to sign the report for acknowledgement of the defect and will leave you a copy of the report on the day. The defects will also be confirmed in a written report of examination issued after the inspection.

There are two categories of serious defects:

### **A defect requiring immediate attention (class A defect)**

The plant should be removed from service immediately until the defect has been rectified.

For these type of defects, our engineer is legally obliged to notify the relevant enforcing authority (HSE or the Local Authority), with a copy of the report, even if the defects are remedied immediately. A competent person who fails to report a defect, simply because it has been remedied on the spot, is disguising a potentially dangerous situation.

It is important to remember a class A defect could have potentially caused a serious accident or worse, a fatality had it not been identified by our engineer.

### **Defects requiring attention within a specified time period (class B defect)**

Our engineer will have made an assessment on the rate of deterioration and using their professional judgement to assess that the item will remain safe to use during the specified period.

Class B defects do not have to be reported to the relevant enforcing authority (HSE or the Local Authority). However, if a class B defect is not rectified then on following inspections this could be escalated to a class A defect.

## Will the enforcing authority follow up on class A defects?

Yes, the enforcing authority could potentially follow up on submitted inspection reports to check that risks are being adequately managed. From experience, the enforcing authority will usually look to see if there is a pattern and build up a picture of the business and then may follow up with a visit.

## I've rectified a defect, what should I do now?

There is no requirement to have lifting plant re-inspected once the defect has been remedied.

Pressure Systems which fall under PSSR do however require to be re-inspected after the defect has been remedied, prior to putting the plant back into service.

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Don't hesitate to give us a call  
whenever you have a question  
about insurance or risk management.  
We're happy to help however we can.

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Executive Chairman

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