

# WORKING PRESSURE

Pressure System Safety Compliance in the coffee trades - Issue 6

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*This publication is produced by Espress Test, the leading independent supplier of compliance solutions for the coffee trade.*

## Locating Coffee Machines Safely



You may remember the major fire last December at Fleet Services on the M3 in Hampshire. What you probably didn't know is that it may have been prevented by following a few safety considerations.

Confirmed reports suggest that a failure of a coffee machine was the cause of the fire. The catalyst of water and steam going into the fryers potentially intensified the challenging fire that followed; fortunately no-one was injured in this incident.

A question we might ask of an operator is "Could your business survive a major catastrophe such as this?" In pretty much all circumstances the answer would be "No!" A little bit of thought on the location of equipment and a structured maintenance schedule, along with good risk assessments and staff training will go a long way to protect your business.



### Locating Machines: Things to Consider

- **Proximity to other forms of heat;** locating near any form of additional heat (cookers, heaters) can cause premature wear on parts and will be detrimental to coffee quality.
- **Tight in an alcove;** will not allow adequate ventilation and may cause difficulty to access for servicing / repairs.
- **Too high for working comfortably;** danger of staff, injury from spillages.
- **Blocking of isolation points;** may not be able to turn off in an emergency.
- **Accessibility;** only trained operators should use the equipment, - avoid areas where customers would normally have access.

### Fleet Services Fire

**At the height of the fire, there were in the region of 100 firefighters on scene trying to tackle the fire and restrict the fire spread.**

*Firefighters were confronted with a "severe fire which was escalating quickly. The fire was very intense and spread to other parts of the service area but thanks to the hard work of the crews we've managed to save sections and some will be able to re-open."*

**Brian Rudman  
Group Commander, (North)  
Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service**

Picture credits: Top right - Publicity Photo. Bottom left - Rushmoor Fire Station

**If you have any detailed questions, Espress Test will always provide advice, freely and without bias.**

# Simple or Complicated?

It is often said to us here at **Espress Test** "The Regulations are so complicated"

Some in the coffee industry have suggested "It's no wonder most people in the coffee industry don't know what they should do and find it easier to simply ignore regulations and hope they never get asked." The simple fact is though, ignorance is no defence and they are a legal requirement. The regulations are in place to 'reduce the risks associated with the release of stored energy'. Any good risk assessment, as required by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, will suggest there are dangers inherent with steam boilers. Furthermore, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 suggest that equipment used in a workplace should be safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and inspected.

**In general, the coffee industry fails to fully understand the Pressure System Safety Regulations, which leads to misconceptions and bad information.**

## Some myths dispelled:

**This is a requirement of the insurance.** *Your insurance may or may not ask for proof of compliance; either way, they cannot legally insure for equipment that is being operated illegally, so will not be able to pay out in the event of a claim.*

**My regular espresso engineer cannot complete the inspection.** *There is nothing stopping your regular engineer from completing the inspection provided he has the relevant qualifications. He must also have a provable degree of independence from his established working relationships. A good way of ensuring this is when the WSE (Written Scheme of Examination) is certified and monitored by a company outside of his control. This only leaves integrity not independence that could be questioned.*

**I can't be stopped from using my machine just because I have not had it inspected.** *Under Pressure System Safety Regulations 2000 there is no provision for prohibition except where there is evidence of imminent danger. However, non-compliance with PSSR proves failure to comply with numerous other regulations, including the '74 act. There is provision to issue a stop notice within this act.*

**It's a new machine so I'm ok - it even came with a certificate from the manufacturer.** *The certificate that comes with the machine is usually for PED (Pressure Equipment Directive) compliance and does not mean the machine is legal. The Pressure System Safety Regulations require a Written Scheme of Examination to be in place before the equipment is used for the first time. The WSE will include the requirements for a first examination.*

If you have any questions you would like answered by 'Working Pressure' please email to [info@espresstest.co.uk](mailto:info@espresstest.co.uk)

## Guess the machine

Not so much a machine but a machine part this edition: what is it and what machine does it fit?

Just a bit of fun. Send your guesses to:

[info@espresstest.co.uk](mailto:info@espresstest.co.uk)  
or tweet us @EspressTest

You won't get anything for your guess except the smug feeling of knowing your stuff!



Fun Fact

**Steam engines are subject to the same Pressure System Safety Regulations as your coffee machine**

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