

Information Sheet

Coffee Machines Thorough Examination Requirements

This information sheet is for employers who have coffee machines in the workplace.

Some coffee machines used in workplaces contain pressure vessels and are legally classed as pressure systems. These systems can release large amounts of stored energy if they fail. **A failure can cause fatalities, serious injuries, or major damage to property. Employers must make sure these machines are examined at set intervals by a competent person.**

Legal Basis

The requirements in this information sheet come from the **Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, S.I. No. 445 of 2012**, which cover pressure systems (Regulations 183–194).

Which coffee machines are included?

Coffee machines that:

- contain a pressure vessel,
- generate steam, and
- operate at 100°C or higher, are classed as pressure systems under the Regulations.

These machines must be examined in line with the legal requirements.

Thorough Examination (Legal Requirement)

A Thorough Examination is a formal, statutory examination carried out by a competent person. It assesses whether the pressure system is operating safely.

A Thorough Examination:

- ✓ focuses on the integrity of the pressure vessel,
- ✓ checks protective devices and any safety accessories, and
- ✓ results in a written Report of Thorough Examination.

When must a Thorough Examination be carried out?

A competent person must carry out a Thorough Examination in the following circumstances:

- ➔ **Not later than three months after installation** and before coming into operation (*Regulation 185(2)*).
- ➔ **After significant modification or repair**, before the machine is returned to service (*Regulation 191(3)(b)*).
- ➔ **At least every 14 months**, unless extended by the competent person examining the equipment. (*Regulation 191(3) and Part B of Schedule 12*).
- ➔ **At the request of an inspector** of the Authority (*Regulation 191(3)(c)*).

Employee Information, Instruction and Training

Employers must make sure employees receive information, instruction and training on:

- ✓ **safe operation,**
- ✓ **conditions of use,**
- ✓ **foreseeable abnormal situations, and**
- ✓ **actions to be taken in an emergency.**

Servicing / Maintenance

Servicing or maintenance involves routine checks, cleaning, adjustment or replacement of parts to keep the coffee machine operating correctly. A written record should be kept on site to show the machine's maintenance history.

Routine servicing or maintenance does not replace the legal requirement for a Thorough Examination.

While maintenance and the examinations required under Regulation 191 are closely related, the two procedures are not the same. A maintenance record or service report is not the same as a Report of Thorough Examination by a competent person produced under Regulation 191(3).

Sample Report of Thorough Examination

Report of Thorough Examination of Pressure Equipment

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007as Amended

Name and Address of Equipment Owner/Employer	Site Where the Examination Took Place
Item Details:	
Description:	Model Type:
Serial No:	Plant ID:
Date of Manufacture:	

	Vessel	Jacket Space	Coil
Safe Operating Limits			
Device Details			

Item History:	
Purpose of Examination	
Additional Testing Carried out	
A. Identification of any part found to have a defect which is or could become a danger to persons and a description fo the defect:	
<i>The particulars of any repair, renewal or modification required to remedy the above.</i>	
B. Identification of any defects found to be a danger to persons and the period within which the necessary remedial action is to be completed:	
<i>The particulars of any repair, renewal or modification required to remedy the above.</i>	
C. Identification of a defect which is not yet but could become a danger to persons:	
<i>The particulars of any repair, renewal or modification required to remedy it.</i>	<i>The period within which the required repair, renewal or modificatin should be completed.</i>

I certify that on ___ / ___ / ___ I examined this item. This report shall not be reproduced except in full and relates exclusively to the item described in this report.

Examined By:

Date of Issue:

Qualification:

Date of Previous Examination:

Telephone:

Date of Examination:

Signature:

Next Examination Date:



Key Definitions

Pressure vessels

Pressure vessels are containers designed to hold gas or liquids at a pressure that differs from the external pressure.

Pressure systems

Pressure systems are a network of one or more vessels of rigid construction, any associated piping, protective devices and pressure accessories that contain a relevant fluid such as steam.

Competent person

A competent person is someone who has the necessary knowledge, experience, training and independence to undertake the functions required of them.

Further Information and Guidance

Refer to the manufacturer's instruction manual for your coffee machine to get detailed information on servicing, maintenance and Thorough Examination requirements.

Consult your insurance provider to determine whether specific servicing, maintenance or Thorough Examination requirements apply under your policy.

[Safe Hospitality - Safety, Health & Welfare in Hotels, Restaurants, Catering & Bars](#)

[Guide to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work \(General Application\)\(Amendment\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. No. 445 of 2012\) Pressure Systems](#)

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This fact sheet is not intended as a legal interpretation of the legislation. Neither is it a detailed technical document that covers all the implications of any given Regulation.

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