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01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
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General Machinery Regulations, 1988

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1. Definitions

Key definitions include:

- "building work" - as defined in the General Administrative Regulations
- "certified engineer" - holder of a certificate of competency referred to in Regulation E1(1) or certificate in mechanical or electrotechnical engineering issued before 1 January 1966 under the Mines and Works Act, 1956
- "competent person" - in relation to machinery, means any person who: (a) Has served an apprenticeship in an engineering trade including machinery operation and maintenance, or has at least five years' practical experience in operation and maintenance of machinery, and at least one year's experience in the specific class of machinery requiring supervision (b) Has obtained an engineering diploma in mechanical or electrotechnical fields with at least T3 or N5 qualification, and at least two years' practical experience in the specific class of machinery requiring supervision (c) Is a graduate engineer with at least two years' post-graduate practical experience in the specific machinery class requiring supervision and has passed the examination on the Act and regulations (d) Is a certificated engineer
- "divisional inspector" - as referred to in General Administrative Regulations
- "electrical installation" - as defined in the Electrical Installation Regulations
- "elevator" - any lift, hoist or appliance for conveying persons and goods by means of a car, cage, cradle or receptacle in a hatchway on fixed guides (excludes builder's hoists and hand-powered hoists)
- "escalator" - power-driven inclined continuous stairway with moving steps and hand rails for conveying persons between levels
- "goods elevator" - elevator used solely for goods conveyance and necessary attendants (excludes hand-powered hoists)
- "graduate engineer" - holder of a degree in mechanical or electrotechnical engineering from a South African university or equivalent
- "live" or "alive" - electrically charged



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- "shiftsman" - person employed to supervise machinery use with necessary knowledge and experience to ensure safe operation
- "the Act" - Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983 (Act 6 of 1983)

2. Supervision of machinery

(1) To ensure compliance with the Act and regulations, employers or machinery users shall designate a full-time person in writing for each premises where machinery is used.

(2) The chief inspector may permit designation of more than one person under specified conditions.

(3) The designated employee must be a competent person, subject to the provisions of this regulation.

(4) (a) If: (i) The sum of power generated on premises plus power from other sources exceeds 1200 kW but is less than 3000 kW, the designated person must meet paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of the "competent person" definition (ii) If such sum is 3000 kW or more, the designated person must meet paragraph (c) or (d) of the "competent person" definition (b) For calculating power from steam generation, divide the manufacturer's rated evaporative capacity (kg of water per hour at 100°C) by 21, or multiply the heating surface (in m²) by 0.8 if rated capacity is unavailable

(5) For machinery used solely for electricity distribution: (a) If maximum demand over any continuous 30-minute period is 3000 kVA or less, the designated person must meet paragraph (a) of the "competent person" definition and be registered as an installation electrician (b) If demand exceeds 3000 kVA but is less than 10000 kVA, the designated person must meet paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of the definition (c) If demand is 10000 kVA or more, the designated person must meet paragraph (c) or (d) of the definition

(6) Despite subregulations (3), (4) and (5), the chief inspector may permit designation of a person with other qualifications under specified conditions.

(7) (a) An employer or machinery user may designate competent persons to assist the primary designated person (b) The chief inspector may direct an employer or machinery user to designate a specified number of persons with specified qualifications to assist the primary designated person

(8) Except with inspector approval, no designated person shall supervise machinery on premises other than those for which they were designated.

(9) When an employer designates a person under subregulations (4)(a), (5)(b) or (c), they shall forward a copy of the appointment letter to the divisional inspector.

(10) (a) Despite subregulation (1), no designation is required for elevators, goods elevators, escalators, electrical installations in shops/offices/domestic premises, domestic appliances, building work machinery, vehicles, earth-moving plant, or refrigeration/cooling/air-



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conditioning/freezing plant inspected and maintained by qualified persons under agreement
(b) The chief inspector may direct any such employer or user to designate a qualified person within a specified period

(11) Employers or users seeking exemption from this regulation shall furnish the Minister with: (a) Application grounds (b) Number of employees on premises (c) Nature of work performed (d) Number and type of incidents reported in the preceding three years (e) Safety management system details (f) Other particulars requested by the chief inspector

(12) Despite this regulation, machinery requiring supervision by a person under paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of the "competent person" definition may be used without such person for up to one month in any continuous six-month period if impracticable to comply due to circumstances beyond control, provided a person under paragraph (a) of the definition is designated in writing to supervise during the absence.

3. Safeguarding of machinery

(1) Every employer or machinery user shall: (a) Ensure machinery is suitable for its purpose, installed, operated and maintained to prevent exposure to hazardous conditions (b) Effectively safeguard all exposed dangerous parts within normal reach by means of insulation, fencing, screening or guarding, unless an inspector has granted written permission to omit safeguarding (c) Ensure all safety equipment is kept in good working condition and properly used (d) Ensure material quality and construction of machinery or safety equipment is suitable for its intended purpose

(2) Where machinery poses danger to persons, the employer or user shall enclose the premises and keep entrances closed and locked when unattended.

(3) No person shall remove safety equipment without authorization from the employer or machinery user.

4. Operation of machinery

(1) Employers or machinery users shall ensure authorized machinery operators are aware of dangers and familiar with precautionary measures.

(2) Operators of machinery requiring constant attention to avoid accidents shall not leave their posts while the machinery is operating unless relieved by an authorized and competent person.

(3) Employers or users shall ensure machinery requiring constant attention is supervised by a shiftsman who remains on premises while machinery operates, and no one shall attend to or operate such machinery except under a shiftsman's general supervision.

(4) No person supervising or operating machinery shall authorize another person to do their work without superior's permission.



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(5) If machinery may threaten safety when unexpectedly started or made electrically alive, the employer, user, and operators shall take reasonable precautions to prevent such situations, and anyone intending to start such machinery shall take precautions to ensure safety isn't threatened.

(6) If operating machinery threatens or may threaten safety, the supervisor, operator, employer or user shall stop the machinery or cause it to be stopped.

5. Working on moving or electrically alive machinery

(1) No employer or machinery user shall permit anyone except competent persons or those trained to an inspector's satisfaction to work on or near moving or electrically alive machinery if such work may endanger them. This doesn't apply to machinery operation under a shiftsman's general supervision.

(2) Employers or machinery users shall take reasonable precautions to ensure safety of persons working on or near machinery in motion or electrically alive, including during operation. Inspectors may require additional precautions.

(3) No person working near moving machinery shall wear or be permitted to wear loose outer clothing, jewelry, ornaments, watches, key-chains, long loose-hanging hair or anything that could be caught in moving parts.

6. Devices to start and stop machinery

(1) Employers or machinery users shall provide starting and stopping devices that: (a) Are readily and conveniently reached by the machinery operator (b) Prevent accidental starting of machinery

(2) Employers or machinery users shall provide positive means to render controls of electric motor-driven machinery inoperative during repairs or adjustments, beyond merely tripping a switch.

(3) For machinery operated simultaneously by multiple persons, employers or machinery users shall provide: (a) A stopping device at each operation point that locks out when used and requires manual resetting before restart (b) An audible warning device sounded before machinery starts Inspectors may permit alternative precautionary measures.

7. Reporting of incidents in connection with machinery

Each incident where: (a) Fracture or failure of any machinery part resulted in falling or flying objects (b) Machinery ran out of control due to control or safety equipment failure and could have injured a person on, in, or near the machinery (c) Fracture or failure of any part of machinery containing gas under pressure resulted in sudden gas release

shall be reported immediately to an inspector by the employer or machinery user.



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8. Notifiable substances

(1) Employers or machinery users possessing substances listed in Schedule A column 1 (or mixtures thereof) in quantities equal to or exceeding those in column 2, in a single fixed storage vessel, shall immediately notify the divisional inspector using Schedule B format.

(2) When use of such substances is discontinued, the employer or user shall immediately notify the divisional inspector in writing.

9. Information regarding regulations

(1) Employers or machinery users shall provide each person designated under regulation 2(1) with a free copy of the Act and regulations.

(2) Employers or machinery users shall display: (a) For boilers, a notice as set out in Schedule C (b) For other machinery, a notice as set out in Schedule D in both official languages, legibly, in conspicuous places on premises.

(3) Employers or machinery users shall ensure notices are explained to employees not conversant with an official language.

10. Offences and penalties

Any person contravening regulations 2(1), (4), (5), (8), (9), or (12), 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9, or contravening notices under regulation 2(7)(b) or (10)(b) or (12), commits an offense and faces fines up to R1000 or imprisonment up to six months, with additional penalties for continuous offenses.

11. Repeal of regulations

(a) Regulations C1, C4, C8, C9 (including annexures F11 and F13), C19, C21, C22, C23, C24, C25, C26, C27, C28, C51, C53 and C54 promulgated under Government Notice R929 of 28 June 1963 are repealed. (b) Regulation D2 promulgated under Government Notice R1934 of 13 December 1963 is repealed.

12. Short title

These Regulations shall be called the General Machinery Regulations, 1988.