

Hydraulic system compliance risks

Some guidelines such as BS EN ISO 4413:2010 improve your hydraulic system safety and help you comply with PUWER regulations. Other regulations, such as the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations are required by law. A lot of people who work with hydraulic systems do not realise this.

These are the top 10 risks for non-compliance with current guidelines and regulations:

1. Hydraulic accumulators need to be maintained, and records kept. The risk is with no maintenance and no understanding of the risks; serious injuries could result.
2. Hydraulic accumulators need a safety system to release excess pressure. Again, if these are not installed and maintained, then serious injury could result.
3. If hydraulic systems are not designed to BS EN ISO 4413:2010, then some aspects of the design may have not been considered fully. This could result in component failure, and injury to nearby personnel.
4. If you don't have a hydraulic schematic then your maintenance staff cannot tell where there may be trapped in pressure, and they won't be able to assess the risks of changing components correctly.
5. No schematics and no bills of materials, you will not know the working pressures of the system and may replace components with pressure ratings lower than required.
6. Personnel working near hydraulic hoses will need protecting should the ends come off.
7. Personnel working near hydraulic hoses will need protection against oil leaking at pressure.
8. Hydraulic systems that have test data are likely to operate safely as the system has been pressurised and tested at system working pressures.
9. If you have no schematics then it can take 5 times longer to find the root cause of the problem.
10. Schematics help you to maintain the systems and keep your systems reliable.