The Use of Pressure Washer Equipment

Document Title: **Safe System of Work and Risk Assessment Template**	
Document Reference: RA09	Version No: **02**
Task: The Use of Pressure Washing Equipment	

Safe System of Work

1	**Location:** **All Locations** **Originator:** **Julius Zenevicius (QSHE Manager)** **Date:** September 2023	**Task:** The Use of Pressure Washing Equipment
2	**List of any Hazards as identified by risk assessment:** • Manual Handling • Slips Trips and Falls • Noise • Disturbing Potentially Hazardous Materials (e.g. Asbestos) • Moving Vehicles • Vibration • Lighting • Environment • Poor housekeeping • Electricity • High pressure water • COSHH Chemicals	
3	**List of Special Equipment, Procedures or Competence Required to Perform the Task:** **Equipment:** • Pressure Equipment (Karcher professional) • Attachments **Training Required** • Internal QSHE Induction • Manual Handling • Method Statement and Risk Assessment • Health and Safety Policy • Equipment Maintenance& Service Records	
4	**Step by Step Safe Working Method to Follow:** **Rules** • Only staff who are trained and authorised to use this equipment are allowed to do so. Competency shall be established by the Manager • The equipment is checked prior to any power source being applied or activated. Any faulty switches, sockets or other artefact are attended to before the appliance is used, • The operator will ensure that no other person is within five metres of the activity. Any compromise of this instruction then the activity is immediately suspended. • If a detergent is being used, then the applicable COSHH instruction and MSDS is consulted prior to use. • The appliance is used with care and in accordance with the manufacturer's operating instructions. ON NO ACCOUNT is the nozzle of the jet wash to be pointed at any individual or animal. • On conclusion of the activity, the appliance is switched off, made safe and is wiped clean before being returned to storage. **Methodology** • Inspect area before commencing task. • Only staff who are trained and authorised to use this equipment are allowed to do so. Competency shall be established by the Manager. • Precautions taken to protect all surrounding paintwork ground cover and plant life. • Ensure any electrical points or sockets are sufficiently covered and isolated if unable to avoid use the jet spray near these points. Best practice is not to use Jet wash near these	

	items. • The equipment is checked prior to any power source being applied or activated. Any faulty switches, sockets or other artefact are attended to before the appliance is used. Report faults to the Manager and do not use. • Check pressure levels and hoses are secure and safe • Ensure all applicable PPE is being worn and is free of defects. • Do not start machine until it has been fully assembled. • The operator will ensure that no other person is within five metres of the activity. Any compromise of this instruction then the activity is immediately suspended. • If a detergent is being used, then the applicable COSHH instruction and MSDS is consulted prior to use. • The appliance is used with care and in accordance with the manufacturer's operating instructions. ON NO ACCOUNT is the nozzle of the jet wash to be pointed at any individual or animal. • DO NOT leave jet running unattended • ALWAYS use both hands to control the Jet gun. • Machine cables must be kept behind machine, to avoid being caught up in the machine or tripped over. • Do not allow the hose to become taut at ankle height. • Take Regular Breaks to avoid fatigue. • DO NOT use if temperatures are or are expected to drop below freezing before drying out can be completed. • On conclusion of the activity, the appliance is switched off, made safe and is wiped clean before being returned to storage. • Do not leave equipment lying around.
5	**Protective Equipment required (tick as appropriate):**  Gloves (EN374/388) ☒  Face Mask (EN140/143)  Glasses/Goggles (EN166) ☒  Safety Footwear (EN345) ☒  Ear Protection (SNR32 EN352)  Hi-Visibility Clothing (EN471) ☒

6 Manual Handling Guidance:

Step 1: Think before lifting and handling

Step 2: Adopt a stable position

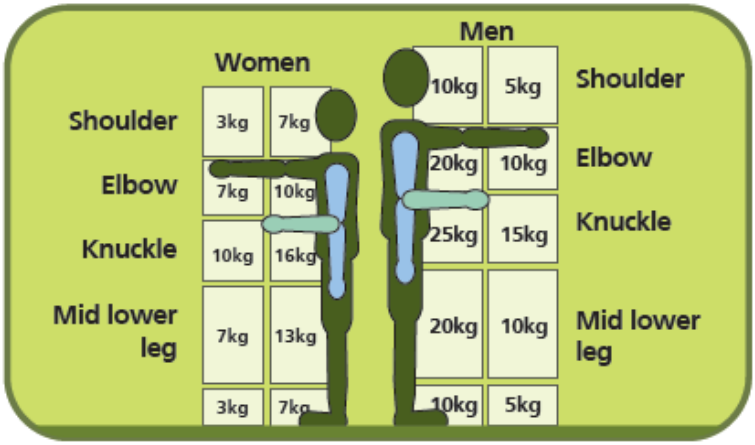
Step 3: Start with a good posture

Step 4: Avoid twisting the back or leaning forwards

Step 5: Keep the head up when handling

Step 6: Put down then adjust

Guideline weights for lifting and lowering, which assumes that the handling is taking place in reasonable working conditions with a load that is easily grasped with both hands by a reasonably fit, well-trained individual are set out below.



<u>For clarity the maximum permitted weight to be lifted by employees is 25KG for men.</u> Weights to be lifted may need to be reduced below these values if there are environmental or other factors that could have an adverse effect on the activity or if it involves twisting or bending. Where possible manual handling tasks should be minimised by using manual handling aids such as trolleys and similar devices.

Lifting	- Do not rush into a job without thinking about the size, weight and your personal capabilities - Mind your fingers and toes - Slide rather than lift
Unloading	- Take care of your back – use your knees to take the strain when you lower the load - Make use of any handy surface to take the weight whenever you can
Pushing and Pulling	- Push rather than pull where possible - Lean in the direction you are going - Keep feet well away from the load
Carrying	- Do not carry a load for long distances – use mechanical aids where possible

The Use of Pressure Washer Equipment

Risk Assessment

Hazard identified and nature of possible harm	Control Measures	Severity	Probability	Risk Rating	Action Required (If none, insert words 'Maintain and Monitor Controls')	Time scale	Action taken (sign and date)
Manual Handling	• Guideline weights for lifting and lowering, which assumes that the handling is taking place in reasonable working conditions with a load that is easily grasped with both hands by a reasonably fit, well-trained individual. These are set out in the System of Work. • Weights to be lifted may need to be reduced below these values if there are environmental or other factors that could have an adverse effect on the activity, or if it involved twisting or bending. • Where possible, manual handling tasks should be minimised by using lifting aids such as trolleys and similar devices. • Stand in a position to anticipate the pressure when applying and be aware of potential jolts when applying and disengaging the jet gun. • Point jet gun downwards when using	**3**	**1**	**3**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-
Slips, trips and falls Fractures Bruising/abrasions Tendon/ligament damage	• Continual monitoring of all slip trip and fall hazards as Operatives must walk whilst moving unit • Ensure all PPE is being worn/used including wearing sensible shoes with adequate grip • Only trained personnel to conduct task • Do not leave equipment unsupervised and placed so as not to cause a trip hazard.	**4**	**1**	**4**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-

Environment Adverse weather causing wet flooring Sun glare	• Identify, report, clean-up process in line with general housekeeping. • Be cautious in episodes of inclement weather as slip/trip hazards will increase	**3**	**1**	**3**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-
Lighting Lack of lighting Impact damage. Increase of slips/trips /falls	• Daily checks on the lighting, defects reported • If you believe the lighting is inadequate for the task without putting yourself in danger, seek assistance and advice from your manager before you commence the task	**3**	**1**	**3**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-
Poor Housekeeping Debris & Wet or polished floor surfaces Spilled liquids	• Continual monitoring by staff • Identify, report, clean-up process in line with general housekeeping routines. Maintain tidy environment, Asses the working environment and remove any potential trip hazards and obstacles before commencing task	**3**	**1**	**3**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-
High Pressure water. Soft tissue injuries Penetrating injuries from flying objects	• Staff trained in safe use of equipment • Pressure washer only used occasionally. • All pressure fittings, hoses, spray jet and safety components are checked before switching on. • The jet is never directed at people, animals, active electrical equipment, the appliance, the operator or any third party (e.g. for cleaning shoes or clothes). Protective overalls, waterproofs and safety glasses are worn. • The appliance is never left unattended as long as it is turned on. • Protective gloves are worn.	**4**	**1**	**4**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-

Chemical Solutions under COSHH regulations Exposure to chemical solutions with eyes, skin, ingestion, inhalation Spillage of chemical solution	• All staff read and understood the applicable COSHH Risk Assessment as found in the site file and deemed to be competent to use the product • The applicable Material safety data sheet (MSDS) is on site • Wear PPE at all times when using product, gloves and safety glasses mandatory. Only use approved product supplied by the manufacturer. • Always add chemical to water to prevent splashback • Ensure staff are aware of the location of the first aid facilities • Always refer to manufacturers guide and instructions of use. • Do not mix products together. • Ensure that the jet spray is away from the body and the jet directed at the floor to minimise spray. • In windy conditions work with the jet gun being operated downwind. Be mindful of gusts •	**4**	**1**	**4**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-
Electricity Faulty wiring Burns Electrocution/Death	• All electrical equipment & ext. leads have been visually inspected in line with Electrical Equipment and Testing Policy and are maintained regularly. • Staff aware of hazards • RCD supplied, if necessary • Operators checks equipment periodically • Ensure hands are dry before operating any electrical switches. • Ensure all power is disconnected before conducting any manual changes or maintenance. • Avoid working near any live switches and sockets where possible. If not practical ensure the sockets/switches are sufficiently covered to prevent water ingest. •	**4**	**1**	**4**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-

Vibration Hand arm Vibration syndrome (HAYS) Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) White Finger Circulation issues	• Provide information, instruction and training to employees on the risk and the actions being taken to control risk. • All pressure fittings, hoses, spray jet and safety components are checked before switching on. • Reduce the vibration transmitted to the hand; and the time spent holding vibrating equipment or work-pieces. • Consider task rotation to reduce exposure. • The vibration level of the appliance to be ascertained in order to establish how long the machine can be used for. Record of the usage maintained. • Annual HAVS Assessment are carried out as part of Company Strategy •	**4**	**1**	**4**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-
Noise Short- and long-term hearing loss	• Appropriate PPE (i.e. ear defenders) to be inspected and worn at all times whilst operating the pressure washer. • Only trained personnel to operate pressure washer •	**3**	**1**	**3**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-
Environmental Hazards Chemicals run off into water system Contamination	• Cleaning operations during which oil saturated wastewater is generated, such as engine cleaning and underbody cleaning is only carried out in areas with collecting tank and / or oil separator. • Ensure the chemicals being used in the jet washer are suitable for the cleaning task. • Ensure the wastewater is not disposed via a rainwater sewer. • Ensure the correct PPE is being worn during the task	**3**	**1**	**3**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-

Moving Vehicles Human impact Crushing/ Impalement Death	• Wear Hi-Visibility jackets in any environment which involves moving vehicles to recognise user from further distance • Take extreme caution where vehicles are operating with limited visibility (i.e. Fork Lifts) • Be alert and take appropriate action to vehicles with an aural warning horn or those with flashing lights. • Avoid where possible using devices that can cause distraction in areas of vehicle movement (e.g. phones, electronic devices with headphones) • Work in areas of vehicle movements when volume of traffic is reduced where possible	**4**	**1**	**4**	Monitor and Review Control Measures	-	-

Roll-Out	**Manager's Signature:** Julius Zenevicius	**Date:** September 2022
Refresher Year 1	**Manager's Signature:** Dovile Balionyte	**Date:** September 2023
Refresher Year 2	**Manager's Signature:**	**Date:**

Risk Assessment Guidance – 5 x 5 Matrixes and How to Score Each Hazard

SEVERITY (CONSEQUENCE) CATEGORIES		
Major	5	Causing death to one or more people. Loss or damage is such that it could cause serious business disruption (e.g. major fire, explosion or structural damage).
High	4	Causing permanent disability (e.g. loss of limb, sight or hearing).
Medium	3	Causing temporary disability (e.g. fractures).
Low	2	Causing significant injuries (e.g. sprains, bruises, lacerations. Loss or damage to fixtures and fittings).
Minor	1	Causing minor injuries (e.g. cuts, scratches). No lost time likely other than for first aid treatment. Loss or damage in the form of superficial damage to interior decorations for example.

PROBABILITY (LIKELIHOOD) CATEGORIES		
Almost Certain	**5**	Absence of any management controls. If conditions remain unchanged there is almost a 100% certainty that an accident will happen (e.g. broken rung on a ladder, live exposed electrical conductor, and untrained personnel).
High	**4**	Serious failures in management controls. The effects of human behaviour or other factors could cause an accident but is unlikely without this additional factor (e.g. ladder not secured properly, oil spilled on floor, poorly trained personnel).
Medium	**3**	Insufficient or substandard controls in place. Loss is unlikely during normal operation; however it may occur in emergencies or non-routine conditions (e.g. keys left in fork lift trucks; obstructed gangways; refresher training required).
Low	**2**	The situation is generally well managed – however occasional lapses could occur. This also applies to situations where people are required to behave safely in order to protect themselves but are well trained.
Improbable	**1**	Loss, accident or illness could only occur under freak conditions. The situation is well managed and all reasonable precautions have been taken. Ideally, this should be the normal state of the workplace.

Probability						
	Almost Certain	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**
	High	**4**	**8**	**12**	**16**	**20**
	Medium	**3**	**6**	**9**	**12**	**15**
	Low	**2**	**4**	**6**	**8**	**10**
	Improbable	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
		Minor	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**	**Major**
		Consequence				

HIGH – UNACCEPTABLE
Stop the activity. Consult Manager.

MEDIUM – ADEQUATE
Look to improve at next review.

LOW – SATISFACTORY
No further action. Maintain controls.

Quantum Leap Safety Services

SSOW04 Pressure water cleaner

DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been trained in its safe use and operations

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT


High Visibility clothing


Gloves


Safety footwear must be worn at all times in work areas.


Ear defenders must be worn while operating equipment


Wear protective clothing

Pre-Operational Checks

Before you start using equipment you should always carry out pre-use check to spot any obvious visual defects to make sure equipment is safe to use .Make sure you use correct PPE for the task provided.

- ✓ Check all parts, electrical leads and hoses for any damage before use.
- ✓ Ensure electrical leads and junction boxes are tested and tagged and have an RCD installed
- ✓ Wear applicable PPE as directed above (including riggers gloves if using hot water).
- ✓ Use only in designated area.
- ✓ Ensure signage indicating activity being undertaken is in place

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Ensure all other workers are clear of the immediate work area
- ✓ Ensure the area is clear of slippery surfaces and trip hazards.
- ✓ Only use the Hot Water system when absolutely necessary
- ✓ Ensure area is free of potential flying debris when using the pressurised water
- ✓ Wear riggers gloves to retract hose after using hot water.

ENDING OPERATIONS AND CLEANING UP

- ✓ Retract water hose to prevent trip hazards (wear riggers gloves if hot water has been used).
- ✓ Switch off the electricity supply
- ✓ Drain hoses of stored water
- ✓ Keep the work area in a safe, clean and tidy condition.

DON'T

- ✗ Do not use cleaner with any hazardous chemicals
- ✗ Do not use faulty equipment. Tag out and report fault to your supervisor immediately
- ✗ Do not direct high pressure water towards other workers or themselves.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- Slippery surfaces.
- Moving or rotating parts
- Flying Debris
- High Pressure water.

This SSOP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with operation and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed as a guide to perform the operations