

SSOW 13: USE OF VEHICLE PIT

Issue Number: 10

Date of Issue: 31/01/2026

Based on: RA18

PURPOSE

To ensure vehicle pits are used safely and in a controlled manner, preventing falls, vehicle movement incidents, exposure to fumes, electrocution, contamination, and other workshop-related hazards. This SSOW sets out the safe working practices, competency requirements, and equipment standards required to manage work in and around vehicle pits in accordance with RA18 and site-specific rules.

PPE REQUIREMENTS

For this activity, the following PPE must be worn

					
☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐
High-vis Vest / Jacket (BS EN 471)	Safety Boots (EN ISO 20345:2011) (S3)	Safety Gloves (Cut resistant) (EN 420:2003)	N/A	N/A	N/A

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Authorisation to work within Lynch workshops and use the vehicle pit.
- Familiarity with RA18 and site-specific workshop rules.
- Awareness of vehicle manoeuvring procedures and banksman guidance (where required).
- Understanding of safe entry/exit using handrails and three-point contact.
- Competence in using workshop tools and equipment.
- Awareness of hot works controls, spill response, and hazardous waste handling.
- Knowledge of electrical safety, PAT testing requirements, and defect reporting.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Vehicle pit with fitted handrails, barriers, and signage.
- Local exhaust ventilation for vehicle exhaust fumes.
- Certified electrical services and PAT-tested portable tools.
- Spill kits, absorbent granules, funnels, and hazardous waste containers.
- Housekeeping tools (brushes, bins) to maintain a clear, trip-free area.

SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

- Only authorised personnel are permitted inside Lynch workshops.
- Only authorised personnel are permitted to use the vehicle pits located in Lynch workshops.
- All vehicles are to be guided by a competent person when manoeuvring over the vehicle pit.
- Ensure all tools, equipment and persons are removed from the pit when manoeuvring vehicles over and around the area. This includes disengaging and/or powering off tools and equipment.
- No personnel are to be in the area when moving vehicles onto/off of the vehicle pit. This includes inside the vehicle pit. Always check prior to moving vehicles.
- Always check inside the pit prior to instructing vehicles to exit.
- Pit to remain barriered off when not in use to prevent falls. Signage is in place, must be legible at all times.
- Barriers to be in place when the pit is in use to prevent unauthorised access.
- Use manufacturer fitted handrails to enter/exit the vehicle pit.
- Local exhaust ventilation to be fitted to all vehicle exhaust pipes when engines are run adjacent to the pit.
- All electrical services to be tested and certified. All portable tools to be PAT tested every 3 months and

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labelled correctly. Tools to be inspected daily before use and if defective are to be taken out of service immediately and replaced.

- The pit and the surrounding area are to be kept clear and free of debris, tools, equipment etc. regular housekeeping during the working shift to be implemented to ensure a trip free zone at all times.
- Hot works are to be controlled by the issue of a local hot works permit.
- Suitable eye protection to be worn where activities present a risk of eye injury. Eye wear to be appropriate to the task being performed.
- Protective gloves/gauntlets to be worn at all times when handling oils/fuels or lubricants. Funnels to be used where necessary when topping up or draining liquids to minimise spillage.
- All spillages are to be cleaned up immediately using absorbent granules. All waste (used spill soil, rags, filters etc.) to be treated as hazardous waste and disposed of correctly by a licensed waste contractor.
- Barrier cream to be applied to any exposed skin prior to starting work and at regular intervals thereafter as necessary. Latex gloves are to be worn at all times where there is a risk of contact with oils, fuels or lubricants. Good personal hygiene to be observed at all times.
- Any work at height is to be in accordance with Risk Assessment no. 20
- When working in and around the vehicle pit exercise caution, DO NOT RUSH!
- When entering/exiting the vehicle pit, ensure that the handrail is erected, secured and 3 points of contact is maintained.

IDENTIFIED RISKS

The SSOW above has been compiled after identifying the following risks from this activity

- Falls of vehicles / people into the pit
- Collapse of vehicle jacks
- Asphyxiation from vehicle exhaust fumes
- Electrocution
- Slips, trips and falls
- Fire resulting from hot works
- Eye injuries
- Use of compressed air/lubrication lines
- Contamination from fuel/oil spillages
- Dermatitis from contact with fuels, oils and lubricants
- Work at height

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA18

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