



Diesel Generator Safety Guidance (HGH-SG-002)

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the generator.



1. Plan work and think ahead to ensure work will always be carried out safely.
2. A competent person must authorise use of the generator for some of the applications outlined in this leaflet. Use the equipment only for the purpose for which it was designed.
3. The services of a qualified electrician will be required if the generator is to be used to supply an installed or large system, or for some of the other uses outlined in this leaflet.
4. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
5. Diesel is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
6. This equipment is designed to generate electricity up to its rated current, at its rated voltages.
7. The actions of this equipment can cause injury or damage if the generator is not used in a careful and controlled way.
8. If you have not used a generator before, and you plan to connect the generator to anything other than a single tool or appliance, ensure a competent person checks what you are doing is safe.
9. The following items of PPE are a minimum: Ear defenders (or plugs) rated for protection levels of up to 85dB(A).
10. This generator must not be used by minors, or anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
11. This generator is designed for operation by an able-bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using.

Before Starting Work...

Work Area

1. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Never use it in domestic premises and only use it in other indoor situations if its suitability and the ventilation required has been fully assessed. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Ensure the area is clear and safe and there is no-one close by who could cause distraction.

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4. Protect other people from the noise and possible injury. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around the work area.
5. The generator should be sheltered from rain and water and on a firm, level surface.

Users

1. The relevant items of personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn pertaining to the type of machine being used and the environment being worked in. Particular jobs or environments may require a high level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 85dB (A) – Wear appropriate ear defenders or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
3. Anyone who is working close by will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

Generator

1. Check the generator, engine and sockets. If anything is found to be damaged, do not use – contact the hire company.
2. Check the equipment is in a safe ready to-work position before starting the engine.
3. Find out how to switch the engine off, before starting the equipment know how to stop it.
4. The generator may not be suitable for use with some power tools that have electronic speed control and sensitive electronic equipment such as laser surveying, video, or computer equipment. Check with us before use.

Electrical Connections

1. The electrical supply from a generator should be treated with greater care than normal mains electricity.
2. If the generator is to be connected to anything other than a single tool or appliance, a competent person should check this is being done in a safe manner.
3. A competent qualified electrician is required to connect the generator to an installation or a large system.
4. Do not use distribution boxes or more than one tool or cable connected to the generator, without consulting a competent person.
5. If extension cables are required, they should be kept as short as possible. Lay them out carefully where they will not get damaged, and so that the connections will not get wet. You will need to keep a close check on their full length.
6. You should use only double insulated tools. Do not use earthed tools (those that need an earth wire) without consulting a competent person.
7. Check the generator's power rating against the power usage of your tools. The generator's rating will be shown on its case. 1kVA means it can supply about 800 watts; 5 kVA means about 4,000 watts. Check the labels on each of the tools to find their power usage or check with a competent person. Make sure that the tools will not draw more power than the generator can supply.
8. In any event, certain site conditions will require that the generator is earthed and bonded. This must be done by a competent qualified electrician.

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Refuelling

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. If possible, move the machine away from the work area.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel-soaked cloth carefully.
7. If any fuel is spilt on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If any fuel is spilt on clothes, change them immediately.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly and move the petrol can to a safe, cool place.

Starting the Engine

1. Ensure the engine and machine controls are set correctly.
2. Switch off or disconnect all electrical equipment that is being used with the generator.
3. Check that the oil level has not fallen too low. This may automatically prevent the engine running.
4. Check that the engine and generator controls are set correctly, and that the fuel is turned on.

Using the Engine

1. Wear personal protective equipment.
2. Allow the engine to reach its operating temperature, especially in cold weather, before starting work.
3. If the engine starts to labour and slow down, do not work it so hard. Do not overload the engine.
4. Stop the engine and close petrol taps if leaving the machine unattended.
5. The engine and exhaust system will get hot and remain hot for some time after stopping the machine. Do not touch or allow anything close to the exhaust system that burns.
6. If the engine does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Using the Generator

1. Keep a close check on any cables that are being used—especially extension cables. If they appear to be damaged in any way, stop the generator and replace them.
2. The generator has fuses or circuit breakers to protect it in case of overload. If a fuse appears to have blown, ensure a competent person replaces it.
3. The generator may switch itself off if it gets too hot. Allow it to cool down before restarting. If this happens repeatedly, check with a competent person or the hire company.
4. Stop the generator before leaving it unattended.
5. If the equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact us.

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Please keep this leaflet in a safe place. It may be required for future use.

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