

Inspection frequencies

(in-service safety inspections)

Zurich Engineering's policy

Our policy on inspection frequency can be summarised by three options:

- 1 adopt the customer's contractual frequency of inspection if more frequent than default minimums, or;
- 2 adopt default minimums (regulation or SAFed guidance), or;
- 3 adopt the customer's contractual frequency of inspection (based on the customer's risk assessment).

UK health and safety law is goal-setting by design. The scope and frequency of inspection is therefore risk-based. This means the scope and frequency of inspection is not generally prescribed in the specific regulations. Instead, the scope and frequency of inspection is determined by the Competent Person undertaking the inspections, based on an assessment of the risk.

Note:

Some specific regulations (eg. LOLER and COSHH) do prescribe default minimum frequencies for specific types of inspection (called thorough examinations). These are aimed at controlling specific risks. In none of the regulations is the scope prescribed.

To ensure consistency and robustness, organisations that undertake safety inspections pool their knowledge and expertise within the formal framework of a trade association such as SAFed. With regard to the scope and frequency of inspection, this pool of knowledge and expertise is embodied in SAFed guidance.

Where default minimum inspection frequencies are prescribed in the regulations, or in SAFed guidance, they have been determined empirically to maintain a tolerable (low) level of risk. These prescribed frequencies are generic and based on 'worst case' (within reason) deterioration in service. The frequency of inspection can be reduced if the deterioration can be shown – by risk assessment – to be lower than the 'worst case'.

If a customer requests less frequent inspections than we have outlined above, but without a supporting risk assessment, we will reduce the inspection frequency, as requested and provide terms accordingly. However, we will also point out our existing policy and the risks of reducing the inspection frequency.