



**THE GARAGE EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE MANUFACTURER AND INSTALLATION OF**  
**PREFABRICATED VEHICLE INSPECTION PITS**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

This Code has been produced to provide guidance to the garage equipment industry and is divided into the following sections:

1. Manufacture of prefabricated steel pits
2. Installation of prefabricated steel pits
3. Aftersales advice to customers

### **1. Manufacture of prefabricated steel pits**

#### **Product design**

Pits should meet all of the regulations and requirements of the country for which they are intended to be sold and if sold to a member of the European Community, must abide to the Machinery Directive 95/16/EC. However the pit manufacturer must also abide by the following GEA guidelines:

- Produce clear loadbearing calculations, relative to the particular site conditions, showing that the side walls of the pit and the surrounding concrete are of adequate strength to support the weight of the vehicles being inspected.
- All members are advised that if the product is in series production, its metalwork is load-bearing and acts as a required permanent part of the building's construction then the product needs to comply with the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).
- Inspection pits required to meet the CPR must be CE certified, meet the EU harmonised standard EN1090-1 and be supplied with a copy of the CE approval certificate.
- All steps and stairways should follow the recommendations of BS EN ISO 14122 and are designed to be non-slip and easy draining.
- All pre-installed lighting conforms to Zone 2 requirements as a minimum or meets the correct IP rating for the environment, which may be higher due to the findings of a local risk assessment. If pre-wired, test certification to be provided.
- If the installation location is not known, then the zone rating of all electrics should be clearly marked on the inside of the pit wall. Or on the electrical certificate and in the operation and maintenance information.
- Design the surface of the pit floor to be slip resistant, and free from trip hazards.

- Always offer and advise the use of some form of pit cover and provide the option of removable hand rail on pit access steps.
- Provide the customer with the aftersales advice detailed in section 3 of the code.

## **2. Installation of prefabricated steel pits**

- When sending employees to work on a customer's premises always follow the GEA Engineer's Code of conduct for Engineers working on customers' premises.
- Only supply and install a pre-fabricated pit after a full written risk assessment has been conducted. Some workshops will be dealing with hazards, such as vehicles which transport inflammable substances, in which case all electrical components used in the pit must be zone rated accordingly.
- Always check that the pit being installed meets the customer's and your risk assessment. Supply both a copy to the site of the risk assessment and method statement prior to start of installation.
- After installation the side wall of the pit must not run-out or deflect by any more than 10mm per 10 metre length.
- All site installation staff to be CSCS cardholders as a minimum with additional qualifications for the appropriate equipment operated on site.
- All site installation staff to wear the correct PPE to conform to the relevant health and safety regulations.
- A suitably qualified appointed person will be nominated to supervise all site operations.
- Pit excavations are deemed as "working at height" and require the appropriate prevention/control measures.
- All excavations to be prepared and to have safety equipment employed for persons entering the excavations (if required).
- During all site operations barriers, signage and temporary covering to be used to restrict access by unauthorised personnel.
- All plant used on site must be certified as safe to use and fit for purpose.

- Lifting equipment must be certified as safe to use and fit for purpose. Lifting plans to be provided to the customer.

### **3. Aftersales advice to customers**

- Always keep entry and exits clear when working on vehicle, all inspection pits should have at least one clear entry and two clear forms of exits at all times.
- Keep the inspection pit stairs and walkways clean from oils, spills and trip hazards.
- If a suitable pit bridge/working platform (with removable hand rails) has not been purchased, ensure employees are prevented from jumping or straddling over the inspection pit opening.
- Lighting should be checked periodically in accordance with the site PPM plan.
- Compressed air safety couplings are advised.
- Inspection pits should be covered or clearly marked with retractable safety barriers.
- "Beware Open Pit" signs should be clearly visible in the location of the inspection pit.
- Pit Jacks should have a suitable LOLER certificate and the Safe Working Load (SWL) should be clearly identified.
- Do not store portable LPG heaters, or other LPG-fuelled devices, in or near pits in case they leak.
- Only use portable inspection lamps of special construction that have been designed and tested to prevent ignition in flammable atmospheres.
- Do not leave vehicles idling over pits unless there is dedicated exhaust extraction system being used.