

SAFE WORK PROCEDURES INDUSTRIAL SPACE HEATERS



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Always observe manufacturer's operating and safety instructions (refer to manuals for individual models for specific instructions and precautions).
2. Diesel/kerosene and propane gas heaters must only be used in well ventilated areas – **do not operate fuel or gas fired heaters in enclosed or poorly-ventilated areas.**

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. General precautions	Risk of fire Electric shock Unsafe atmosphere Hot or moving parts Restricted operation	Do not use industrial space heaters in close proximity to combustible materials. Do not refill fuel tank while heater is running – use only recommended fuel(s) . Heaters must be plugged into suitable 240v 10A single phase outlet. Heater fumes are heavier than air - do not operate in basements or below ground. Provide ventilation to outside atmosphere – refer to manufacturer's technical data. Do not operate heaters with covers removed – ensure that all covers are in place. Do not restrict inlet or outlet ends of heater under any circumstances.	Place guard 1 m from heater. Turn heater off before refuelling. Appliance must be earthed. Use heater only in well-ventilated area. Ensure adequate ventilation of area. Do not remove covers while in use. Keep inlet and outlet clear at all times.
2. Specific precautions - direct fired types	Risk of fire Incorrect operation	Do not use direct-fired types in areas where a flammable hazard may be present. Use only those fuel(s) recommended by manufacturer for the particular machine.	Use indirect-fired type in these areas. Ensure fuel is clean and filtered.
3. Specific precautions – indirect fired types	Unsafe atmosphere Incorrect operation Maintenance of burner Storage	Ensure that exhaust flue is fitted as recommended by manufacturer. Fit ducting as recommended by manufacturer to direct heated air to workplace. Use only fuel as recommended by manufacturer for the particular machine. Carry out burner maintenance as prescribed in manufacturer's manual. Store heater in protected area and ensure that water cannot enter flue or chimney.	Contact manufacturer or supplier for information regarding flue and ducting. Ensure fuel is clean and filtered. Isolate heater before maintenance. Fit water protection over flue opening.
4. Specific precautions – LPG units	Storage and handling of gas Risk of fire or explosion Storage	Refer to SWP <i>Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)</i> for safety precautions when handling LPG cylinders. Use only gas draw-off cylinders for heaters. Ensure that gas cylinder is connected properly and check system for leaks. Do not place gas cylinders in front of heater (even if freezing of cylinder occurs). Follow operating instructions to ensure safe start up and use of heater. Ensure that emergency shutdown procedures are displayed and understood. Shut off gas supply at valve when not in use, and disconnect cylinder for storage.	See also SWP <i>Gas cylinders – Storage and handling</i> . Ensure supply hose in not under stress. Ensure correct size of cylinder is used. Observe instructions for type of heater. Instruct users in emergency procedures. Do not store with gas connected.
5. Cleaning and maintenance	Unauthorised repairs Electric shock Incorrect operation	All repairs must only be carried out by a competent person or technician. Disconnect heater from power supply before cleaning or maintenance work. Electrical repairs must only be carried out by a qualified technician. Check heater for correct operating sequence and to ensure that all safety mechanisms are operating correctly at least annually or after major maintenance. Use only genuine replacement parts (or parts recommended by manufacturer) .	Do not allow any unauthorised repairs. Isolate heater before attempting any repairs or maintenance. Carry out maintenance as prescribed in manufacturer's maintenance manual. Ensure that all parts are fitted correctly.