

High risk work licence classes

Pressure equipment

Reciprocating steam engine operation (ES)

This licence authorises the operation of a reciprocating steam engine where the diameter of any piston exceeds 250 mm.

Reciprocating steam engine operation is the safe running and monitoring of a steam engine that uses pressurised steam to move pistons back and forth to produce mechanical power. This type of operation involves carefully controlling and observing the engine to ensure it operates correctly and efficiently, while managing steam pressure, temperature, and moving parts to reduce the risk of mechanical failure, injury, or damage.

A person carrying out reciprocating steam engine operation typically:

- starts up and shuts down the steam engine following procedures
- monitors steam pressure and temperature
- checks piston, valve, and moving parts for correct operation
- controls engine speed and output
- monitors lubrication and cooling systems
- identifies and responds to abnormal noises, vibrations, or faults
- carries out routine checks and basic maintenance.

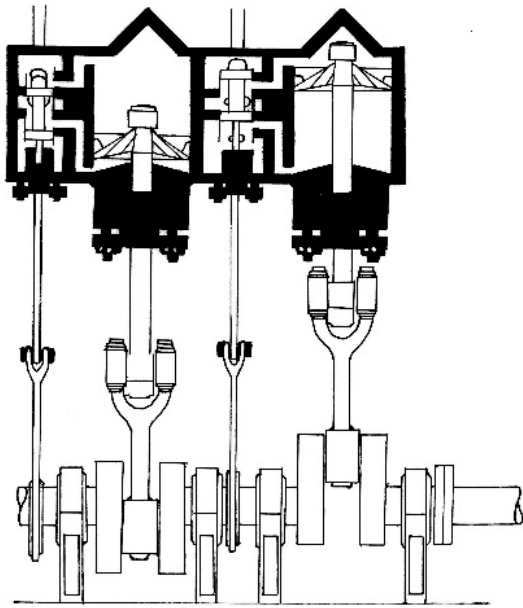


Figure Reciprocating steam engine

Further resources

Visit our website for information about other [High risk work licence classes](#).

Acknowledgement

This document was developed using images adapted from WorkSafe Tasmania.