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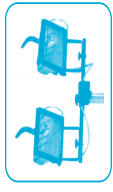
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Festoon & Flood Lighting

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.



It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE using Festoon & Flood Lighting

Plan each task and try to foresee any problems that may occur so they can be dealt with safely.

Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.

- Water and electricity make an extremely dangerous combination. Keep electrical equipment away from rain and water.
- The following items of personal protective equipment are a minimum: rod if using a 230 volt (mains) supply.
- Particular items of equipment or environments may require a higher level of personal protective equipment.
- Lighting equipment must not be installed by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Lighting equipment is designed for installation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



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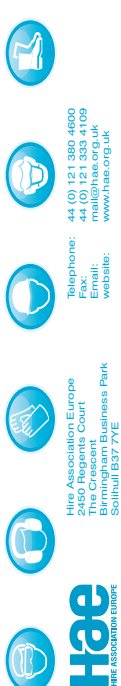
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Using the Lighting Equipment

Ensure that nobody is staring at a powerful light when it is switched on – the dazzle can cause temporary blindness.

Check that cable runs are being kept safe, and are not causing a hazard.

- If a cable appears to be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug at the mains before inspecting it. If the cable attached to a light is damaged, stop using the light. Contact the hire company. If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
- Check that no combustible material, such as paper or rubbish, is too close to powerful and hot lights.
- Switch off lights before adjusting their position.
- Switch off and unplug lights before moving them to a new location.
- Switch off and unplug before leaving portable lights unattended.
- Before switching off general or festoon lighting, make sure no one is going to be in danger by the drop in lighting levels.
- If the lights are left in place for more than a week, then a competent person should inspect them every week to ensure they are safe.
- If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it, contact the hire company.



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Before Starting Work...

Health and safety authorities consistently recommend 110v systems as the best solution for reducing risk from portable, hand-held, and transportable equipment. A risk assessment carried out by the planning supervisor (or other person responsible for the site) should indicate the risk of electric shock. It is most effectively controlled by the use of 110v equipment.

- If an extension cable is required, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the cable given is not a suitable rated heavy duty 110V extension cable only should be used. The extension cable must only be used between the transformer and the lighting.
- Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might become trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
- Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.
- Use a residual current device (rcc) plugged directly in to the 230 volt socket. Plug the lighting into the rcc. This will help to protect against electric shock if the cable or lights are damaged.
- If 230V is selected for equipment on construction sites or similar environments, the risk of injury or death arising from the use of damaged or faulty equipment is high unless special precautions are taken. The precautions must reduce the risk to an acceptable level.



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CHANGING BULBS

Make sure that you have the correct replacement bulb ready. Check with the hire company if in any doubt.

- Do not connect more than four (4) festoon strings together unless the hire company has given special instructions.
- Some festoon lights have sockets so that strings of lights can be chained together. Do not try to use the socket to provide power to other equipment – it is only for connecting another string of lights.
- Do not touch halogen bulbs with bare fingers as they will shorten the life of the bulb when replaced.
- Look away before plugging in and switching on as powerful lights can dazzle.



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Checked daily by operating the test button.

- Inspected weekly together with the formal visual inspection.
- tested every three months by an electrician using appropriate electrical test equipment. Note: the tests should not be carried out on rods at a time when loss of power may adversely affect other work activities.
- Reduce the risk of flexible supply leads being damaged by:
 - positioning them where they are less likely to be damaged (e.g. run them at ceiling height inside a building); and/or
 - protecting them inside impact resistant conduit where appropriate; or
 - using special abrasion resistant or armoured flexible supply leads where appropriate; or
 - Select equipment that is designed for trade and work use. Double insulated equipment is strongly recommended where it is necessary to use a mains voltage supply, because the equipment itself is less likely to give rise to danger. Danger can still arise, however, if the cables, plugs or equipment casing are damaged). Any restrictors on use set out in the manufacturer's or suppliers instructions should be observed.

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