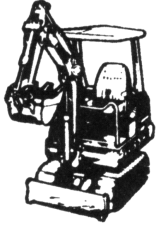




# Safety Instructions

THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READ BY THE OPERATOR BEFORE RUNNING THE EXCAVATOR.



## 7.2 Mini Excavators

- This equipment is designed to be operated by someone with normal ability. Persons with a disability or injury must assess whether their disability, when using the equipment, will affect their health and safety and the safety of others.
- It should only be operated by someone with experience of similar equipment.
- This equipment must not be used by anyone whose competence is impaired, for example by drink or drugs.

- 1 The excavator must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions which are available on request if required.
- 2 The driver should be properly trained in the safe operation of mini excavators.
- 3 Carry out service checks and adjustments at the start of each working day with the engine shut down and the boom lowered to the ground.
- 4 **DO NOT** work under the excavator when it is jacked up on its boom (or blade).
- 5 **CHECK** that all guards and covers are secure before starting. **NEVER** operate the excavator with missing guards or covers.
- 6 Only use buckets and attachments supplied by the Hire Company and operate them according to the manufacturer's instructions, which are available on request if required.
- 7 **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the work area before starting and at all times during the work.
- 8 Before starting check for the presence of underground cables and pipes and/or seek advice if necessary. **DO NOT** use the excavator to dig directly above these services, only use hand tools.
- 9 Only start and operate the machine when sitting in the seat.
- 10 Before starting to excavate lower the dozer blades to the ground to give stability.
- 11 If the machine is fitted with stabilisers always lower them into position before work starts, lifting the wheels off the ground.
- 12 Familiarise yourself with the controls in an open space before starting work. **WARNING**, the track drive controls are reversed when facing backwards.
- 13 **DO NOT** use maximum engine speed until completely familiar with all controls.
- 14 **DO NOT** carry passengers on the excavator.
- 15 **DO NOT** use the excavator beneath overhead electric cables unless there is adequate clearance with the boom in its highest position.
- 16 If trenches are to be excavated then it is likely that these will need support if they are more than 1.2 metres deep.
- 17 **DO NOT** force the excavator beyond its capacity. This can cause the machine to become unstable.
- 18 Take care when operating in the fully offset position, the machine is less stable.
- 19 Extreme care should be taken when operating across a slope. Travel straight up and down if possible and keep the bucket as low as possible.
- 20 **DO NOT** move forward over a trench when digging always move back and away from it.
- 21 When loading another vehicle the driver of that vehicle should dismount and stand well clear.
- 22 **DO NOT** use a bucket to drive in posts or piles etc.
- 23 **DO NOT** stand or work under a raised boom.
- 24 **DO NOT** sling a load from the boom or bucket unless it is fitted with the correct safety crane hook and is marked with a "Safe Working Load", for example "SWL 500kg".
- 25 Any person slinging loads should know about safe slinging practices.
- 26 Only use suitable lifting gear that has been inspected and marked with its SWL.
- 27 **DO NOT** lift a load that is heavier than the safe working load.

**28 DO NOT** travel with the boom and dipper raised and extended. Always fold tight into the machine.

**29 DO NOT** cross kerbs and other obstructions at an angle. Keep the bucket as low as possible.

#### **The Petrol or Diesel Engine**

**30 DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.

**31** Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.

**32** Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.

**33 DO NOT** use the excavator in a hazardous or explosive atmosphere, or where fuel has been spilt.

**34 DO NOT** operate the excavator in a badly ventilated or area where exhaust fumes can build up.

**35** If the machine has to be used in an enclosed area ducting may be used to discharge exhaust fumes to a safe place.

**36 Check** that there is no combustible material lying on or against the exhaust system.  
The exhaust pipe and silencer get very hot.

**37** In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the machine off **IMMEDIATELY**.

**38 IF WARNING LIGHTS SHOW OR GAUGES REGISTER OUTSIDE NORMAL LIMITS, SWITCH OFF THE ENGINE.**

**39 DO NOT** top up with coolant while the engine is running. **ALLOW** the radiator to cool before removing the radiator cap and topping up.

**40** When noise levels are uncomfortably high over 80dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.

**41** If higher noise levels occur regularly when it is necessary to shout to be heard, (85dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.

**42** Before stopping the engine and leaving the seat, lower the bucket (and blade) to the ground.

**43** If the machine is fitted with tracks, park on timbers in freezing weather to prevent the tracks from freezing to the ground.

**44 DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.



**The UK's Leading Association for Plant & Equipment Hire Professionals**

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This leaflet is one in a comprehensive series of equipment safety instructions available from the CPA