



## Plate Compactors



**THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READ BY THE USER BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT**

- 1 The plate compactor must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions, which are available on request if required.
- 2 **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the work area.
- 3 Wear personal protective equipment; safety helmets, safety goggles/glasses safety boots, dust mask and hearing protectors are usually necessary.
- 4 Loose clothing, etc should be avoided. Long hair should be tied back and jewellery should be removed. Wear overalls wherever possible.
- 5 The compaction process can produce dust, which may be hazardous to your health. Always wear a mask that is suitable to the type of dust being produced.
- 6 When noise levels are uncomfortably high at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 7 At still higher noise levels, when it is necessary to shout to be heard, (at 90 dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.
- 8 **CHECK** that guards are secure. **NEVER** operate the machine with missing or defective guards.
- 9 If the machine has transportation wheels ensure that they are stowed before commencement of the task.
- 10 **NEVER** attempt to carry the machine on your own. **ALWAYS** seek assistance or use suitable lifting equipment.
- 11 **NEVER** operate the compactor when under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 12 Before starting the engine the operator should familiarise him or herself on how to stop it.
- 13 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.
- 14 Replace the fuel cap securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.

- 15 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
- 16 Wash fuel splashes immediately. If fuel comes into contact with the eyes, irrigate with copious amounts of water and seek medical attention as soon as possible.
- 17 **DO NOT** use the machine in a hazardous or explosive atmosphere, or where fuel has been split.
- 18 **DO NOT** use in a badly ventilated or area where exhaust fumes can sink into a basement or excavation.
- 19 If the machine is used in an enclosed area, ducting may be used to discharge exhaust fumes to a safe place.
- 20 Move the machine at least 10 metres from the fuelling point before starting the engine.
- 21 **CHECK** that there are no combustible materials against the exhaust system. The exhaust and silencer get very hot.
- 22 In the event of a fuel or oil leak developing, switch the engine off immediately.
- 23 **DO NOT** leave the machine unattended with the engine running.
- 24 Vibration from the machine can cause '**VIBRATION WHITE FINGER**' and eventually other damage to the hands and arms. Keep your hands warm at all times. Gloves can reduce vibration. If your hands start to feel numb, stop work and exercise your fingers to restore circulation. Limit your time using the machine as much as possible.
- 25 When other persons are in the work area, the use of barriers may be required to protect people from noise, debris and dust.
- 26 **DO NOT** allow the compactor to come in to contact with cables or pipes that lay just below the surface.
- 27 **DO NOT** operate the compactor on non-compatible material, such as concrete or hardened asphalt.
- 28 Whilst the engine is running the machine will be easy to move. Be careful not to cause injury to yourself when the machine is operating.
- 29 The compactor may be fitted with reverse gear, ensure that you **DO NOT** reverse over your feet, trip when walking backwards or trap yourself in a corner.
- 30 **CHECK** all fuel and oil levels during long operating periods, top up as necessary.
- 31 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.