

Toolbox Talk No 34a

Excavators used as lifting equipment

Misuse of excavators used as lifting equipment has led to many accidents in the construction industry; dropped loads, overturning due to overloading or working on uneven ground, striking overhead services, crushing injuries due to inadequate clearances, are just a few examples of the unsafe acts or conditions which have led to serious injuries or deaths.

Pre Start

- ❑ Only operate machines you are trained and certificated for and are authorised to use.
- ❑ Carry out daily checks on the machine before starting work.
- ❑ Ensure weekly inspection register is completed.

? What are the safety checks on your machine?

Use of Excavators as Lifting Equipment

- ❑ Never lift, or attempt to lift with a machine which does not have lifting duties.
- ❑ The machine must be fitted with an approved and tested lifting point.
- ❑ Never exceed the Safe Working Load (SWL), rated capacity of your machine, as defined within the machine duty charts.
- ❑ Never lift and carry a load, unless your duty charts permit this type of operation.
- ❑ Look out for proximity hazards particularly overhead cables.

? Where will you find information on the rated capacity of your machine?

- ❑ Keep a sharp look out for persons and machines; follow the direction of your slinger/signaller when lifting, slewing or travelling, to an agreed set of signals.
- ❑ A 600mm slewing clearance must be maintained – where not possible, barrier off.
- ❑ Only pass under cables where goalposts are erected, under the supervision of a banks man, where necessary.
- ❑ Do not work under cables without specific controls e.g. restrictors.

? Whose directions must you follow when lifting slewing or travelling.

- ❑ Before loading vehicles, driver must be clear unless cab protection is provided.
- ❑ Always be alert to the proximity of other site personnel, plant or members of the public.

- ❑ Ensure approved, tested lifting accessories within the current examination period, current colour code (----), are used and are connected to the machine via the approved lifting point.
- ❑ If outriggers are fitted and required by the duty charts, these must be used.

? What is the current colour code for lifting accessories?

- ❑ Buckets or other attachments, which may interfere with the safe execution of the lifting operation, must be removed.
- ❑ When slewing, keep the load in line and the machine in radius don't slew too fast.
- ❑ Always test the load before lifting, lift it a few centimetres of the ground to ensure it is stable and within the capability of the machine.
- ❑ Do not leave machine unattended unless immobilised and fully locked.
- ❑ Safe load and overload indicators are fitted to provide warnings that the machine may be overloaded, never ignore or interfere with these devices.
- ❑ Report all defects immediately.

? What must be done when leaving machine?

- ① *Explain site "Lifting Plans", if appropriate and any other site-specific points.*

