

Specific Equipment

Micro Excavators

- Machines with variable track gauge should only perform excavating with tracks at full width.
- Do not attempt to change track width while machine is travelling.

Quick Hitches

MANUAL QUICK HITCHES

- Manual quick hitches are provided on some excavators.
- Check the quick hitch is securely fastened to the dipper arm.
- Make sure the bucket pins are securely in position and inserted with the locking face correctly located.
- Makes sure the correct safety clip (lynch pin) is in position.
- Never use nails or bolts as a replacement for lost pins.
- Replacement lynch pins are available from your local depot.
- Check for debris in the locking mechanism.
- Check the jaws are locating correctly with the ratchet.
- Check structure of the quick hitch from damage.
- Check the RED locking pin is securely in position and the safety clip (lynch pin) is correctly inserted.
- Do not use nails or bolts to secure the safety pin.
- Spare lynch pins can be obtained from your local depot.

Reduced Swing Excavators

- These have a reduced counter weight size.
- Ensure you are aware of the centre of gravity when operating.

Hydraulic Quick Hitches

- Hydraulic quick hitches are provided on some excavators.
- Make sure the bucket pins are securely in position and inserted correctly with the locking face correctly located.
- Makes sure the correct safety clip (lynch pin) is in position.
- Never use nails or bolts as a replacement for lost pins. Replacement lynch pins are available from your local depot.
- Check the hydraulic pipe connection is secure and leak free.
- Check for debris in the locking mechanism.
- Check the jaws are locating correctly with the hydraulic action.
- Check structure of the quick hitch for damage.

Skid Steers

- Never carry anyone on an attachment.
- Always disconnect the attachment from the host machine before carrying out any adjustments.

Specific Equipment

Rotary Brush

- Ensure that there is nobody near the attachment when starting.
- Do not allow people to stand in the Danger Zone when operating the machine.
- Always wear the correct PPE relevant to the working conditions.
- Dust can reduce visibility; operate with extreme caution in dusty conditions.
- Only use the machine for the purpose for which it was designed.
- Use the controls gradually so that the machine operates smoothly.

Pallet Forks

- Ensure that there are no other persons in the working area.
- When picking up or setting down always operate the forks in a level plane.
- Never overload the forks.
- Always carry the load with the lowest position and the tilt cylinders fully retracted.

Fork Grapple Attachment

- Be aware that the damping action of the grapple is potentially dangerous to bystanders.
- Ensure that there are no other persons in the working area.
- Operate the fork and grapple in a level plane.
- Always ensure that once the load is clamped by the grapple that it is securely held before moving.
- Never overload the fork and grapple.
- Always carry the load with the loader arms in the lower position.
- Never attempt to discharge the load with the grapple closed, this may cause the machine to tip forward.

! Please read these instructions before using this equipment.

We thoroughly check all of our equipment prior to despatch using comprehensive pre-hire checklists.

All equipment is serviced regularly and our local engineer will contact you to arrange on site servicing or maintenance in accordance with our scheduled maintenance programme.

PPE is required for the safe operation of this equipment. As a minimum we advise the following items.



Always ensure you wear the correct PPE required by the task.

Watch our safety videos

You can watch our safety videos on our website or app. Alternatively, scan the QR code with your mobile phone to watch the safety video for this equipment.



Your Essential Guide
Excavators (inc. Skid Steer Loaders)

Further Information

Copies of this guide are available on our website or from your nearest depot.

Please contact your local depot for:

- Service or repairs
- Replacement operator manuals

Contact Us

0844 3722200 **nixonhire.com**

Your Safety Is Our Priority.

● General Information

These safety guidelines are intended as a guide for experienced operators.

- Detailed operating instructions relative to a specific make or model of equipment are available on request from your nearest depot.
- The operator manual and safety instructions must be read before operating this machine.
- The operator manual can be found in the designated storage compartment of the machine. If it is not there contact the nearest depot for a replacement.
- It is a criminal offence to smoke or allow smoking in this machine.
- Only use the machine for the purpose intended.
- Never attempt to modify or convert the machine.
- Only use competent, trained personnel to drive the machine.
- Do not ignore safety regulations relating to this machine.
- This machine must only be operated with fully functional safety equipment.
- Ensure you obey any age limitations relating to your site before using this machine.
- Always obey legislation relating to this equipment.
- Anyone with a disability should seek expert advice before operating this machine.
- Do not use this machine if under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- If using prescribed medication, seek advice from a Doctor before using this machine.
- All safety decals and signs must be in place and obeyed at all times when using this machine.
- Ensure the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is nearby or could distract you.
- Before starting equipment, ensure all controls are understood, in particular the stop procedure.
- After use, store the equipment safely and securely away from minors.
- **Has a risk assessment been performed for the task you are to commence?**

● Daily Checks

The operator should carry out the following daily checks before operating this machine;

EXCAVATOR

Tracks: Splits, cuts, tension.

Drive sprockets: Free of debris.

Hydraulic Hose and union: Damages, leaks.

SKID STEER

Tyres: Splits, cuts, pressures, tread.

Wheel Nuts: Tightness.

Brakes: Function, leaks.

GENERAL

Safety Guards & Locking Pins: Undamaged and correct pins.

Seat: Security, adjustment, comfort.

Seat Belt: Frayed, cuts, buckles damaged, loose mountings.

Horn: Operation.

Controls: Function correctly, are not slippery and are clear of debris.

Steering: Function, hydraulic leaks.

Check that the areas around rams and linkages are free from mud, ice or debris.

Ensure that all safety decals are in place and can be read clearly.

● ROPS\FOPS

- Roll over Protection Falling Object Protection Systems (ROPS\FOPS) are integral to the cab structure if the equipment is fitted with a cab.
- Always check that there are no cracks, fractures, distortion, bends or corrosion on any part of the ROPS\FOPS system.
- ROPS should not rattle when the machine is driven. Have the ROPS checked if this occurs.
- All screw nuts and bolts should be correctly tightened and in good condition.
- No additional parts must be fitted to the ROPS system. Holes must not be drilled or any items welded to the structure.
- The ROPS should always be used when operating this machine.
- If the customer requires the machine to be used with the ROPS folded down then the customer must carry out a full risk assessment.

● Operation

- Only operate the machine from the operator's seat and wear a seat belt.
- Only use the machine if it is in service.
- Only use the machine when you are familiar with all controls and functions.
- Only use the machine on ground you are familiar with.
- Check to ensure the area is clear of persons and obstructions before operation.
- Check to ensure that handrails, steps and platforms are free from grease, oils, fuels, dirt, snow and ice.
- Check the engine compartment hood is closed and locked.
- Always use handrails and three point climb when accessing the machine.
- Check the machine for obvious defects.
- Check that all protective devices are in place.
- Check the steering, brakes, control elements, lighting and horn are all working.
- The seat is correctly adjusted (do not adjust while driving).
- The mirrors (if fitted) are clean and adjusted to suit the operator.
- Do not start the engine until you are seated correctly and the safety bar is down.
- Do not start the machine if any gauges, control lights or controls are defective.
- Do not take loose objects with you or fasten them to the machine.
- Ensure control levers are in neutral before starting the machine.
- When starting up the machine always make sure that there nobody within the operating area.
- Observe all safety instructions and warnings attached to the machine.
- Be aware of overhead power lines and underground services.
- Do not move forward over an excavation always move back and away from it.
- Avoid any operation that might be a risk to machine stability.
- Extreme care should be taken when operating on or across any slope.
- Always lower the boom and blade to the ground when work is finished.
- Always lower the boom and attachment to the ground when work is finished.
- Never leave the machine with the engine running.
- Never leave the machine unattended with the key in the ignition.
- Always check all gauges after starting.
- Exhaust gases are toxic and must be vented.
- Only start in enclosed rooms if sufficient supply of fresh air is available.
- Do not operate with persons in the endangered area of operation.
- Always give warning for persons to clear the area.
- Stop the machine if persons remain in the area.
- Only restart the machine if the danger has passed.
- Do not climb on or off the machine while driving.
- Only change machine direction when the machine is standing.
- Never use the machine to transport passengers.
- Stop the machine immediately if you notice unusual noises or smoke from the machine.
- Do not restart until the cause is identified and rectified.
- Always keep sufficient distances from excavations and embankments.
- Make sure your work does not impair the stability of the machine.
- Do not drive up or down gradients which exceed the gradability of the machine.
- Show caution when driving on wet or loose soils as ground adhesion is severely reduced.
- Match machine speed to working conditions.
- Use lights if fitted in times of poor visibility.

Refuelling

- Take care when refuelling.
- Never refuel whilst the engine is running.
- Do not inhale fuel fumes.
- Shut down any auxiliary equipment.
- Do not refuel in closed rooms.
- Do not refuel next to open fires.
- Do not smoke when refuelling.
- Do not spill fuel.
- Catch any over filled escaping fuel.
- Clean any fuel spillages immediately.
- Ensure the fuel tank cap is replaced after refuelling.
- Fuel leaks are dangerous, repair leaks immediately.

Towing\Recovery

- The tow point is for recovery of the excavator only in the event of breakdown.
- Towing \ recovery should not be performed without reference to the Operators Manual.

Lifting with Excavators

- An excavator can only be used for lifting purposes if it complies with LOLER regulations relating to lifting with excavators.
- Lifting with excavators must only be carried out with a lifting plan.

Parking

GENERAL

- Park the machine on firm level ground.
- Shut down the engine and remove the key.
- Secure the machine against unauthorised use.
- Always climb down from the machine using access steps and handrails.
- Always use three points of contact.
- NEVER jump from the machine.

EXCAVATOR

- Park the machine with the dipper arm between the tracks.
- Return the Safety console to parked position.

SKID STEER

- Never leave or enter the machine with the lift arms in the raised position unless the locking bar is in place.
- Always lower the lift arms before leaving the machine.
- Apply the parking brake.
- Return the travel lever to neutral.