

Crawler Excavator

Objective

To establish safe operating practices of Crawler Excavators, ensuring the safety of personnel and efficient equipment function.

Scope

This procedure applies to all Crawler Excavators operating in our operations.

Procedure

1. Responsibilities

- **Operators:** Follow this SOP and report any safety concerns or incidents.
- **Supervisors:** Ensure operators are trained and adhere to this SOP.

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Hard hat
- High-visibility vest
- Safety boots
- Gloves*
- Safety glasses*
- Hearing protection*

3. Pre-Operation Checks

- **Visual Inspection:** Check for any visible damage or leaks.
- **Fluid Levels:** Ensure engine oil, hydraulic fluid, and coolant are at appropriate levels.
- **Tracks:** Inspect for proper tension and any signs of wear or damage.
- **Lights and Signals:** Verify all lights and signals are functioning.
- **Controls:** Test all controls for proper operation.
- **Safety Devices:** Ensure all safety devices, including fire extinguishers, are in place and functional.

4. Climbing on and off Machines

- Use the 3-point contact method when climbing into and out of the machine.
- Always face the machine while mounting or dismounting.

For more information refer to "CLIMBING ON AND OFF MACHINES- Policy & Procedure"

5. Start-Up

- **Communication:** Confirm you are on the correct RT channel.
- **Comfort:** Seat position and air conditioning is set to operator preference.
- **Windows:** All windows clean for optimal visibility
- **Mirrors:** Align mirrors to operator preference.
- **Seatbelt:** Fasten the seatbelt.
- **Engine Start:** Turn the ignition key to start the engine.
- **Warm-Up:** Allow the engine to warm up for a few minutes.

6. Operation

- **Check Area:** Ensure the work area is clear of personnel and obstacles. Keep work area tidy and free of debris.
- **Communication:**
 - Call up other machine operators including Processor operator and vehicles when approaching.
 - Make sure to get RT or visual confirmation before passing other machines or vehicles.
 - Machines not to get closer than 20m to ground staff including QC MM1 unless RT or visual confirmation.
- **Travelling:**
 - Do not travel with the grab obstructing the view of the travel path.
 - Maintain a clear line of sight.
- **Weather:**
 - Restrict grabs to reduce logs slipping in wet weather.
 - Operate according to conditions.
- **Excavation and Loading:**
 - Position the excavator in a stable and level position.
 - Use appropriate digging techniques to avoid overloading the machine.
 - Lift materials carefully, ensuring the load is balanced.
 - Swing the boom slowly and steadily to avoid sudden movements.
- **Unloading Materials:**
 - Position the excavator at the unloading area.
 - Lower the bucket and tilt to release the materials.
 - Ensure the area is clear before moving to the next operation.

7. Shutdown

- **Parking:** Park in a safe area on a level surface.
- **Ground Hydraulics:** Lower boom so bucket is safely resting on the ground.
- **Engine Shut down:** Turn off the engine and remove key. Wait for turbo timer to shut down.
- **Isolate:** Turn off battery isolation switch.
- **Inspection:** Conduct a final inspection and report any issues.

- **Fuel:** If possible, fuel up at the end of the day.

8. Emergencies

- **Fire:** Shut down the machine safely, Report immediately, if it can be done safely use fire extinguisher to put out fire.

For more information refer to "ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY Policy & Procedure"

- **Spill:** Contain and report any fluid spills immediately.

For more information refer to "OIL LEAK & CHEMICAL SPILL Policy & Procedure"

- **Injury:** Shut down the machine safely, provide first aid and contact emergency services if necessary.

For more information refer to "MEDICAL EMERGENCY Policy & Procedure 2024"

- **Equipment Failure:** Shut down the machine safely and report the issue to Equipment Team.

9. Maintenance

- **Daily:** Perform pre-operation checks and report any issues.
- **Weekly:** Clean the excavator and check for any wear and tear.
- **Monthly:** Schedule a thorough inspection and maintenance with a qualified technician.

10. Training

All operators must complete training on the Crawler Excavator and be familiar with this SOP.

11. Additional Resources

Having a good understanding of the machine operator manuals and safety guidelines is very important for safe and productive operations.

Manuals:

Safety Information:

- [NZ WorkSafe Forestry Safety Guidelines](#)

Videos:

- [Volvo Crawler Excavator Basic Operations](#)

12. Acknowledgment:

I acknowledge that I have read and understood this policy / procedure "Wheel Loader"

Name:

Sign:

Date: