

GA451S

Plant and work equipment GUIDANCE FOR BANKSMEN

Related processes:

- A451 *Control of lifting operations*
- A454 *Excavations and earthworks*
- A455 *Plant and work equipment*

This is a mandatory briefing note for banksmen and is to be delivered:

- upon the appointment of the site banksman (BVL and sub-contractors);
- during method statement briefings where plant and machinery that has been assessed as requiring a banksman.

Authorisation:

You must be authorised by the BVL Site Manager or a nominated deputy to carry out the role of the banksman on the site. The authorisation must be in writing. If you have not received authorisation, you are not permitted to undertake the role of the banksman.

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Your duties:

1. As the banksman, you are the 'eyes and ears' of the operator of the plant or vehicle. You must:
 - study the risk assessment and method statement (if there is one) and discuss the planned work with the plant operator;
 - agree with the operator the method that is to be used for communicating — the method must be simple and easy to understand;
 - give clear instructions.
2. You must ensure that the area around the plant or vehicle is clear of people, objects or materials. If the work involves a plant movement, you must also ensure that the area to which it is to travel is also clear. For mini-excavators with extendible tracks, you should ensure that the tracks are extended when operating and travelling.
3. You must stop people entering the working area — if they need to enter the area or to cross in front or behind the plant or vehicle you are directing, you must signal to the operator to stop before allowing them to pass.
4. You must watch for signs of ground movement that may indicate that it cannot support the loads imposed by plant, equipment or vehicles.
5. When digging around services, you should direct the excavator driver so that he does not dig within 500mm of those services.
6. On completion of the work, you must ensure that the plant or vehicle is parked in a safe location.
7. You must remember that the role of the banksman is different from that of a slinger/signaller. Only authorised slinger/signallers can sling loads on B&V sites.

You must be aware that:—

8. People often take short cuts and may walk into an unsafe place without your knowledge;
9. Trap zones can be created accidentally — you and others may not see the risk developing;
10. Plant can move in ways that you and others least expect — which is why the area must be clear of people before any movement takes place.

When is a banksman required?

The need for a banksman to assist with a particular activity will be determined from risk assessments undertaken by the site management. The reasons will be explained to you by your supervisor.

Activities where a banksman may be required include:

- the use of excavators;
- the reversing of plant or vehicles serving the site;
- any vehicle or plant movements in areas which are restricted or confined or which have overhead obstructions;
- the operation of two or more pieces of plant (such as a mini excavator and a dumper) in a restricted space;
- work where a plant operator has a restricted field of vision and does not have a clear line of sight to all parts of the work;
- the transporting of loads of sizes that which may restrict the view of the operator or which may impede others using the same route;
- the placing or picking up of loads in locations where the operator's view is limited (but note that the slinging or unslinging of suspended loads must be undertaken by an authorised slinger / signaller);
- work in areas where operations may affect members of the public;
- the use of dumpers for backfilling where it is not possible to use stop blocks.

Remember:

- Remain vigilant at all times.
- Keep clear of operating plant and vehicles.
- Remain visible at all times — ensuring you can easily be identified by having a high-visibility vest or helmet with a distinctive colour.
- Ensure the plant or vehicle driver knows to stop immediately if you disappear from view.