

## G917B

### Health and safety management on site SAFE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DUMPERS

*Related procedure:* [P917](#) Plant and work equipment

**Do not deviate,  
Do not improvise,  
Operate SAFELY or not at all**

**This is a mandatory briefing note for all dumper operators and is to be delivered during:**

- site induction of dumper operators;
- method statement or risk assessment briefings where dumpers are being used to assist in loading or transporting materials.

**Supplementary information:**

A copy of the operator's manual for the dumper must be available to the dumper operator.

As the dumper operator, you are responsible when you use your dumper to load or transport materials around the site. Your own safety and the safety of those around you depend on you operating your dumper safely.

Please stick to the plan to ensure the safe operation of the dumper.

**General:**

1. Only operate a dumper if you have been authorised to do so by the Site Manager. If you are not authorised, you must not operate the equipment.
2. Never use the dumper for purposes other than those for which it was designed. The dumper is designed to carry in the skip loads such as soil, clay, sand, wet concrete, stone or other similar materials. It is not designed to carry loads which move around the skip uncontrollably, nor to carry any loads or materials which overhang the skip in any way.
3. Only operate the dumper if you have been given a risk assessment or method statement briefing which covers the use of the dumper and the tasks you have been asked to undertake.
4. If you have any concerns over the safety of the operation — DO NOT DO IT, STOP WORK and tell a supervisor. Do not follow instructions that may compromise your safety or the safety of others.
5. Do not operate the dumper until you have read the manufacturer's operating manual and you have familiarised yourself with the dumper.
6. Understand the limitations of the dumper with respect to its loading and mobility (*see below*).
7. Conduct the pre-use checks stated in the operating manual, paying particular attention to the condition of tyres, warning light, wheel-nut tightness, brakes, seat belt and the seat-securing mechanism.
8. A seat belt must be fitted to the dumper — the driver/operator must use it.
9. Keep to designated traffic routes and observe speed limits. Ensure pedestrians are clear of the vehicle at all times. If you want to speak with someone, stop the vehicle first.

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10. Always remain in the driver's seat whenever the engine is running. Never attempt to operate any controls unless seated.
11. Never dismount with the engine running and never leave the dumper unattended with the key in the starter switch.
12. Always apply the parking brake before leaving the driver's seat.
13. When climbing down off a dumper, do not jump off — use the steps and hand-holds provided.
14. Do not carry passengers, unless an additional passenger seat is fitted.
15. If the work involves driving on public roads, you must have the correct driving licence to do so — drivers of dumpers with gross vehicle weights exceeding 7.5t must hold a class 1 or 2 HGV/LGV licence depending on the gross vehicle weight — if you are unsure which is required, ask your supervisor.

**Know the limits of the dumper:**

1. Make sure you know the load capacity (SWL) of your dumper.
2. Make sure you know the stopping distance of your dumper.
3. Make sure you know the safe operating speed for your dumper particularly when cornering.
4. Make sure you know the maximum slope on which your dumper can operate safely.

**Skips and loading:**

1. Never exceed the rated payload.
2. Never remain on the dumper when loading. Stop the engine, apply the parking brake, dismount and stand well clear.
3. Always ensure that the load is evenly distributed within the skip.
4. Never carry loads or heaped materials that affect forward vision.
5. Always take extra care when tipping non free-running loads, particularly with rotary skips and high-discharge dumpers.
6. Never use the skip in a tipped position to bulldoze heaped materials level or to backfill material into excavations.
7. Loads which cannot be placed in the front-loading skip must not be transported with the dumper. In such cases, an alternative method of transportation must be used. Do not be persuaded or told to use the dumper.

**Towing:**

1. Dumpers can be used for towing where there is a towing hitch fitted. Loads (including the weight of the trailer) not exceeding the rated payload of the dumper may be towed if the manufacturer approves the dumper for this use.
2. Never tow loads up, down or across slopes.
3. Always use a purpose-made towing pin.
4. Never attempt to start a dumper by towing or pushing.

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**Slopes:**

1. Some models of compact dumpers may become unstable on slopes greater than 1 in 4, so it is important that you check the manufacturer's operating manual and confirm restrictions with your supervisor.
2. Slippery or loose surface conditions can adversely affect safe machine operation, including braking, particularly on slopes.
3. Choose routes that avoid slopes that are steep or have slippery or loose surfaces.
4. Never coast down slopes. Always negotiate slopes in first gear.
5. Drive forwards up slopes when loaded.
6. Reverse down slopes when loaded.
7. Keep the load facing uphill.
8. Do not park the dumper on a slope — if it is unavoidable, ensure the dumper is facing uphill and chock the wheels.
9. Never attempt to turn on a slope.
10. Never operate high-discharge or rotating skips on slopes.
11. Maintain a safe distance from the edges of excavations, spoil heaps and pits. For example when loading excavated material into the dumper skip, position the dumper in front of or alongside of the excavator, away from the excavation where possible.

**OPERATING SAFELY****Remember one rule:****Operate SAFELY or not at all**