

Excavators

You must only operate an excavator if you have been trained and authorised to use it, and hold a current and relevant CPCS card.

- See that your machine is serviceable and correctly maintained at all times. **Keep** windows clean and unobstructed for visibility.
- All excavators need a weekly inspection, and a thorough examination within 12 months – check these records and report all defects immediately.
- If lifting up to 1 tonne, excavator also needs safe working load marked on the boom, or table in the cab, and a proper, tested lifting hook.
- If lifting over 1 tonne, excavator also needs check valves and automatic safe load indicator.
- Note: the industry has suffered a spate of buckets falling from excavators with “quick-hitch” device. Interserve do not permit Semi-Automatic quick-hitches on site. Check manual and fully automatic quick-hitches work properly as part of your weekly inspection.
- Excavators need all-round visibility. This may be provided by the seat position (some mini excavators with small overhangs) or other equipment such as mirrors and CCTV.
- Mirrors are only any good if they are not broken, are clean, properly adjusted and used. CCTV is only any good if it’s working, camera is clean, monitor is visible and used.
- **Check** ground conditions before starting work. Find out the position of any underground services in the working area – don’t start unless you have a Ground Disturbance Permit for the work.
- **Always keep** a sharp lookout for other persons and machines working nearby. If using a Banksman – stop if you lose sight of the banksman.
- **Look** out for obstructions, especially overhead cables, at all times.
- **Do not** pass under overhead powerlines unless within the confines of ‘goal posts’ and with a Banksman in attendance.
- **Do not** load dumpers unless the driver of the dumper is off the dumper in a safe place.
- **Check** for obstructions and men in the vicinity of the excavator before slewing. Clearance of at least 600mm **must** be maintained to protect and prevent people being crushed.
- **Do not** react to signals from unauthorised persons, except in an emergency. Work only with an authorised Banksman/Slinger and operate to his signals.
- **Always** lower the bucket to the ground and **make sure** the brakes and safety locks are on, before leaving the machine for any reason – and remove key.
- **Always** follow vehicle routes and speed limits.
- **Always ensure** buckets, booms and jibs are supported when raised for maintenance.

Questions:

- 1 What should be carried out before excavation starts?
- 2 What should be the position of the bucket if you leave the machine?
- 3 What precautions shall be observed if there are overhead power lines in the vicinity?

Remember:

People don’t always notice an excavator moving – make sure you notice them

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Sections 9 & 14