

WHEEL LOADER OPERATIONS

The following guides to safe work techniques won't tell you all you need to know about operating a wheel loader, but they will point out the common hazards and how to avoid them.

Only experience will teach you some things, but following these guidelines and talking to and listening to experienced operators will help you to work safely.

NOTHING BEATS EXPERIENCE

Pre Start Checks:

Pre-start checks should concentrate on ensuring that all fluid levels are correct and filters are clear and should include;

- Engine coolant;
- Engine oil;
- Hydraulic oil;
- Fuel level;
- Fire extinguisher if fitted.
- Wheels

Follow the manufacturer's requirements for checking fluid levels, as there may be special requirements.

Start-Up Checks:

Before starting the machine it is important to do the following checks:

- **Ensure your team members are well clear;**
- **Check that the steps and platforms are free of grease, oil and dirt;**
- **Check the steering, brakes, controls; light systems and warning horn are all working.**
Don't try and start a machine with defective gauges, control lights or control elements. (Check for the problem).
- **Check that all controls are in neutral and locked;**
- **Check that your seat is correctly adjusted so that you can reach the foot pedals and controls comfortably;**
- **Check that the seatbelt is operational and buckled correctly;**

Don't crank the engine for too long, if it doesn't start promptly you can do serious damage to the starter motor and overheat the wiring.

Report any damage, leaks, or worn parts.

After Start Checks:

Once you have started the loader check that the oil pressure warning light has gone out, if not shut it down and find out why or serious damage may be done to the engine. After the loader has warmed up enough to start operating, before moving off, check again that the area is clear of all personnel.

Shut Down Procedure:

When you shut down your machine be sure to park on a level area away from your immediate work area then:

- **Lower the bucket and apply the parking brake;**
- **Idle machine for at least 5 minutes**
- **Shut the engine down and remove the ignition key;**
- **Turn off master key if finished for the shift**

Safe Operating Tips:

Don't operate the loader unless you have an operator's license or are training under the direct supervision of a competent operator.

Read and understand your machines operators' manual and any warning labels on the machine.

Keep your machine clean including the seating area, instrumentation and lights.

Be alert whilst operating your machine

Clean any mud and grease from your boots so that your feet won't slide from the pedals.

Know the limitations of your machine and work within those limitations. **Don't** attempt to do any work greater than the machines rated capacity or your experience level.

Plan your work to minimize movements within the work area and where possible maintain a level-working surface.

Always know the whereabouts of people on the ground, traffic and other machinery and **Always** follow the directions of your team mates and give way to them at all times.

Keep your movements as smooth as possible, fast or jerky movements can damage the machine and create operating hazards on unstable ground.

Don't load a truck unless it is on reasonably level ground and the driver is in a safe position. Load trucks to avoid spillage of the load and tipping over of the loader.

Never allow anyone to walk or work under any part of the machine or load while the machine is operating.

Never allow anyone to ride on the machine.

Never lift the bucket to any height when operating on a side slope or when traveling

Keep a safe distance from excavations, embankments and edge of benches, making sure that your work does not affect the machines stability.

Use low gear when traveling on a steep slope.

Use three points of contact when accessing and exiting the machine

Dust Exposure

Long term Dust exposure can cause serious health issues. To minimise dust exposure keep doors and windows shut at all times while operating. The machine cab is positively pressurised. Check that the cab air con / heater filter is maintained and in good condition. Vacuum and wipe out cab regularly.

Do not use a broom to sweep out as this releases more dust into the air.

Overhead Power Lines:

Working in close vicinity to overhead power lines presents a very serious hazard and special precautions must be taken. As a general rule if you need to work closer than 10 metres to overhead power lines you should ask for advice and check Aurora recommendations.

Machine must be greased at the end of each shift as per operators manual

REMEMBER IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF ANYTHING, ASK FOR ADVICE