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“H.S.A. Statistics for Work Related Accidents in 2024 showed incident triggers such as being struck by vehicles/vehicle collisions (10 fatalities) continue to be one of the leading causes of work-related fatalities across all sectors of employment in Ireland. The construction sector saw a significant decline from 10nr fatalities in 2023 to 5nr in 2024. It is important that the construction industry continues to focus on providing a safe place of work for employees to reduce the number of fatalities as work related fatalities can be prevented.”



Sinéad Shinkins, EHS Manager, John Cradock Ltd.

Description

Hazards:

- Machine Moving Parts.
- Moving Material.
- Mobile Plant.
- Lone Working.
- Confined Spaces.
- Other Workers in Area.
- Members of Public in Area.
- Reversing/Tipping loads.
- Electrical Services overhead.
- Driver not being able to see 1 metre out & 1 metre up off ground around the machine.

Control Measures:

- High Vis Vest will be worn by all personnel so as to be seen by plant operators.
- Mobile plant will be guided into place where all round vision is not possible & in tight locations.
- All plant operators will be trained to CSCS level & will have Safe Pass.
- All plant will have amber flashing beacons and shall be maintained in full working order.
- Work will not take place alone in isolated areas.
- Warning signs posted relating to the use of mobile plant in the area.
- Auxiliary Safety Devices; amber flashing beacon, movement alarm, left wing mirror mounted front of driver's door, right wing mirror mounted off extended mounting on right side of cab/mounted off handrail for maintenance access, rear mounted CCTV, such that the operator can see 1 metre out & 1 metre up from ground level of the machine in all cases, including to the rear where the operator can see behind him/her.
- Plant shall be fully maintained & halted for repair as required.
- Overhead services shall be highlighted & protected.
- Maintenance carried out by competent personnel only. Machine arms or entrapment points propped.
- No Lone Working.
- Use of mobile phones while operating plant is strictly prohibited.
- The machine tested at manufacture & thoroughly examined every 12 months where used as a lifting appliance.
- Update of GA2 form of weekly inspection where used as a lifting appliance.
- Any machine left unattended must have the ignition key removed.

Site Dumper Prestart Checks

External Walkaround Checks

- Check that the vehicle is level & check for any visible damage to the machine
- Check that tyres are correctly inflated & are not damaged (e.g. no bulges, tears etc.)
- Ensure wheel nuts are in place, correctly fitted & secured
- Remove any obstructions & loose material from the accelerator, footbrake & footwell (floor) area
- Check skip for damage & ensure front skip pins are in place & undamaged
- Check decals in place & legible
- Check underneath the vehicle for fluid leaks
- Check hydraulic rams & pipe/hose are in good condition, secured in place & not leaking
- Check the fuel cap & hydraulic cap are in place & in good condition
- Check when cold: engine oil, coolant, water, brake fluid, transmission oil & hydraulic oil for levels & leaks etc
- Check steps & hand holds are in good condition
- For dumpers with cab ensure suitable mirror(s) (including convex mirror) are secure & aligned correctly

Load Security

- Ensure the vehicle is loaded within load limits
- Ensure the skip is fully lowered & the load is distributed evenly & doesn't block the driver's view of the road ahead



If intended to be used on Public Roads

- Check that all lights & indicators are in place, undamaged, clean & in good working order i.e. headlights, rear lamps, stop lights & number plate lights
- Ensure registration plate is secure, clean & clearly visible
- Ensure rear view mirrors are undamaged & clean (on dumpers with cabs)
- If the dumper capacity is less than 3m³ ensure you do not travel loaded more than 1km on a public road to & from the site you are working on
- If the dumper capacity is greater than 3m³ with a travelling speed capability less than 55kph ensure you have a Local Authority special permit with you when you travel any distance with a load on a public road

Driving Position Checks

- Ensure seat is properly secured to machine
- Check safety belt(s) are accessible, in correct position & working correctly
- Turn on engine & check all instrument gauges & warning lights working
- Check handles for all hand controls are secure & that controls are working
- Check steering, handbrake & footbrake are working correctly
- Check reversing alarm & flashing beacons are in place & in good working order
- Ensure the windows are clean & wipers working properly (on dumpers with cab)
- Operator should wear a high visibility vest/jacket & safety helmet (on dumpers with no cab)

Roll Over Protection

- Ensure adequate Roll Over Protection (ROPs) is securely in place (retrofitted ROPs must be CE marked to EN:474-6 & BS EN 13510)
- ROPs with a folding capability (the folded position used for limited headroom access only in controlled conditions e.g. on a solid level surface) must have the pins & split keys securely in place

Note: Always consult with the manufacturers manual and follow all checks required.



360 Excavator (Tracked) Prestart Checks

External Walkaround Checks

- Check for any visible damage to the machine
- Check track assembly for damage, tightness etc. Visually check rollers, idlers, sprockets etc. are in order
- Check underneath machine for fluid leaks
- Check when cold, engine oil, coolant, water, brake fluid, transmission oil and hydraulic oil for levels and leaks etc.
- Check hydraulic rams and pipe/hose are in good condition, secured in place and not leaking
- Check decals in place and legible
- Check the fuel cap and hydraulic cap are in place and in good condition
- Check work attachment (bucket, rock breaker etc.) is properly secured and correct pins and clips are securely in place
- Check condition of ground engaging tools i.e. – tips, adapters not broken or excessively worn etc.
- Check 'Falling Object Protection' (FOPs) system is in good order (where required)
- Remove any obstructions & loose materials from accelerator and foot brake
- Check steps and hand holds are in good condition
- Ensure check valves are in place on hydraulic system where required
- Check pipes and cables are not frayed or broken
- Ensure quick hitch mechanism is free from obstruction & loose materials. Ensure quick hitch springs (manual quick hitch) are in place & not damaged
- Check all lights are in good order
- Check reversing camera, where fitted, is in place and undamaged



In Cab Checks (Running Checks)

- Check driving controls are in good working order
- Check all instrument gauges & warning lights are working
- Check/Sound movement alarm & ensure it is audible and working correctly
- Check control lever lock arm ("dead man lever") is operational

In Cab Checks (prior to full ignition)

- Check safety belt(s) accessible, in correct position & working correctly
- Check seat is secure and in good working condition
- Ensure heater is in good working condition
- Ensure windows are clean, not cracked & wipers are working
- Check/Sound horn & ensure it is audible and working correctly
- Turn on and check that all lights, including flashing beacons, are working
- Check handles for all hand controls are secure and that controls are working
- Check all mirrors (including convex mirror) are secured, unbroken & aligned correctly
- Check reversing camera and camera screen, where fitted, are working
- Check control lever lock arm ("dead man lever") is in place and not damaged

When used as crane

- Ensure Safe Working Load information is readily accessible
- Ensure the vehicle/ machine is loaded within limits
- Ensure the load is not obstructing drivers view
- Ensure a competent slinger/signaller used
- Check the overload warning devices are working correctly

Note: Always consult with the manufacturers manual and follow all checks required.

