



Mini Excavators



THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE READ BY THE OPERATOR BEFORE RUNNING THE EXCAVATOR

- 1 The excavator must be operated correctly according to the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions which are available on request if required.
- 2 The driver should be properly trained in the safe operation of mini excavators.
- 3 It is a requirement of the law that operators must be over the age of 18 years.
- 4 Wear personal protective equipment as conditions determine. A hard hat and boots with steel toe caps are usually necessary. Wear a dust mask in dusty conditions. Dust generated by the excavation can give rise to silicosis.
- 5 Carry out service checks and adjustments at the start of each working day with the engine shut down and the boom lowered to the ground.
- 6 **DO NOT** work under the excavator when it is jacked up on its boom (or blade).
- 7 **CHECK** that all guards and covers are secure before starting. **NEVER** operate the excavator with missing guards or covers.
- 8 Only use buckets and attachments supplied by the hire company and operate them according to the manufacturer's instructions which are available on request if required.
- 9 **CHECK** that all persons and animals are clear of the work area before starting and at all times during the work.
- 10 Before starting **CHECK** for the presence of underground cables and pipes and/or seek advice if necessary. **DO NOT** use the excavator to dig directly above these services, only use hand tools.
- 11 Only start and operate the machine when sitting in the seat.
- 12 Before starting to excavate lower the dozer blades to the ground to give stability.
- 13 If the machine is fitted with stabilisers always lower them into position before work starts, lifting the wheels off the ground.

- 14 Familiarise yourself with the controls in an open space before starting work.
WARNING, the track drive controls are reversed when facing backwards.
- 15 **DO NOT** use maximum engine speed until completely familiar with all controls.
- 16 **DO NOT** carry passengers on the excavator.
- 17 **DO NOT** use the excavator beneath overhead electric cables unless there is adequate clearance with the boom in its highest position.
- 18 If trenches are to be excavated then it is likely that these will need support if they are more than 1.2 metres deep.
- 19 **DO NOT** force the excavator beyond its capacity. This can cause the machine to become unstable.
- 20 Take care when operating in the fully offset position, the machine is less stable.
- 21 Extreme care should be taken when operating across a slope. Travel straight up and down if possible and keep the bucket as low as possible.
- 22 **DO NOT** move forward over a trench when digging, always move back and away from it.
- 23 When loading another vehicle the driver of that vehicle should dismount and stand well clear.
- 24 **DO NOT** use a bucket or the boom to drive in or extract pile, post etc.
- 25 **DO NOT** stand or work under a raised boom.
- 26 **DO NOT** sling a load from the boom or bucket unless it is fitted with the correct safety crane hook and is marked with a "Safe Working Load", for example "SWL 500kg".
- 27 Any person slinging loads should know about safe slinging practices.
- 28 Only use suitable lifting gear that has been inspected and marked with its SWL.
- 29 **DO NOT** lift a load that is heavier than the safe working load.
- 30 **DO NOT** travel with the boom and dipper raised and extended. Always fold tight into the machine.
- 31 **DO NOT** cross kerbs and other obstructions at an angle. Keep the bucket as low as possible.

THE PETROL OR DIESEL ENGINE

- 32 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. **NEVER** refuel with the engine running.
- 33 Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel container. Wipe up any spillage immediately.
- 34 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
- 35 **DO NOT** use the excavator in a hazardous or explosive atmosphere, or where fuel has been spilt.
- 36 **DO NOT** operate the excavator in a badly ventilated area or where exhaust fumes can build up.
- 37 If the machine has to be used in an enclosed area ducting may be used to discharge exhaust fumes to a safe place.
- 38 **CHECK** that there is no combustible material lying on or against the exhaust system. The exhaust pipe and silencer get very hot.
- 39 In the event of a leak of fuel or oil developing, switch the machine off immediately.
- 40 If warning lights show or gauges register outside normal limits, switch off the engine.
- 41 **DO NOT** top up with coolant while the engine is running. Allow the radiator to cool before removing the radiator cap.
- 42 When noise levels are uncomfortably high at 85-89 dB(A), it is advisable to wear hearing protectors.
- 43 At still higher noise levels, when it is necessary to shout to be heard, (90 dB(A) and above) the law requires that hearing protectors must be worn.
- 44 Before stopping the engine and leaving the seat, lower the bucket (and blade) to the ground.
- 45 If the machine is fitted with tracks, park on timbers in freezing weather to prevent the tracks from freezing to the ground.
- 46 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.



CPA. 27/28 Newbury Street, Barbican, London EC1A 7HU.
Tel: 020 7796 3366. Fax: 020 7796 3399.
Email: enquiries@cpa.uk.net

Website: www.cpa.uk.net

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