



Hire Yards

This document provides suppliers, employers and employees with information about WorkSafe's current safety focus in the hire yard industry and directs them to detailed guidance about plant and equipment.

The equipment hire industry supplies a substantial portion of plant and equipment used on construction sites in Victoria

WorkSafe inspectors are currently visiting hire yards to ensure that suppliers, in particular hire yard operators, are complying with their duties under Victoria's health and safety legislation.

Safe plant and equipment are essential for achieving safe construction work, however, these items can become damaged during use.

Common equipment damage

Common faults or damage that may require an item of plant to be isolated from the hire fleet may include, but is not limited to:

- Parts are missing, damaged or worn out (eg faulty brakes, jammed or worn wheels or missing plant guarding)
- Electrical equipment water damaged, clogged with dust/dirt/debris, etc
- Safety locks or mechanisms are difficult to open and close and/or are corroded.
- Emergency stop systems are not operating correctly
- Electrical leads and connections are damaged (eg exposed, unsecured and/or unearthed wiring)
- Sling lifting points are bent or worn out
- Safe working limits labels or decals are missing or illegible
- Missing maintenance and inspection labels/tags/reports

Duties of suppliers

Suppliers who hire or lease plant intended for use at a workplace must:

- ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the plant is safe and without risks to health if it is used for a purpose for which it was designed, manufactured or supplied
- give adequate information about the plant (including the purpose for which the plant was designed and any conditions necessary to ensure that the plant is safe and without risks to health)
- ensure plant is inspected and maintained between each hiring or leasing; and
- the details of inspection or maintenance carried out are recorded and retained.

Note: Additional obligations apply to hirers of plant. See "Further Information" for detailed guidance.

Inspector Focus

Inspectors are looking to ensure that a safe working environment is provided and maintained; and processes are in place to ensure plant is safe. This includes, but is not limited to the points set out below.

Hire yard safety

- Employees (including contractors) performing the inspection/repair are competent
- Employees providing instruction on safe operation of plant are competent and appropriately trained
- Hazardous manual handling tasks are identified and associated risks are controlled so far as is reasonably practicable
- Segregation between equipment storage areas, loading areas and pedestrian walkways is clearly defined
- Storage and racking systems are appropriate (eg load limits are clearly labelled and are not being exceeded)
- Appropriate amenities and first aid facilities are provided for employees
- Appropriate spill containment is provided for fuels, oils and other hazardous substances that are stored on site;
- Employees (including contractors) are competent to load and unload hired mobile plant
- Vehicles used to transport hired plant are appropriate for the task

Inspection/maintenance between hiring

- Returned plant and equipment is inspected, maintained and repaired (if required) by a competent person, and the details are recorded
- Damaged equipment is isolated from hire fleet
- Electrical equipment, including generators, residual current devices are appropriately inspected, tested and tagged
- Height access equipment is supplied with appropriate fall prevention controls, eg trestles above 2m have appropriate guard railing

Hire processes

- Persons hiring plant should be advised of any applicable High Risk Work (HRW) licence requirements.
eg operating a boom type elevating work platform with a boom length 11m or more, requires a HRW licence.
- Plant is being provided with safe use instructions/manuals.

Construction Safety Focus

Further Information

Visit www.worksafe.vic.gov.au to download the following publications:

Checklist - Health and safety in construction plant and equipment hire yards
Safety Alert - Workers crushed in EWPs
Safe loading of elevated work platforms on tilt tray trucks
Dangerous machines safety checklist
Certification, licensing & qualifications checklist
Hiring out construction plant & equipment checklist
A health and safety solution – Pressure Vessels – Air Receivers
Construction Safety Focus – Musculoskeletal injury prevention

Contact WorkSafe's Advisory Service on (03) 9641 1444 or free call 1800 136 089.

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