For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

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0102 Safety Guidance

DIESEL v:032017

ALLIANCE TOOL HIRE of course!

Plate Compactor

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Diesel Plate Compactor

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Diesel is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. This compactor is designed for compacting hardcore, or the final leveling of paving blocks or other surfaces.
4. The action of this plate compactor can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. If you have not used a plate compactor before, familiarise yourself with the machine on some straightforward work before you start on the main task.
6. You must have at least the following items of person al protective equipment: dust mask – a minimum of EN149 FFP3(s) protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 98 dB(A); safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972; gloves.
7. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. This plate compactor is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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Using the Compactor

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and safety boots.
2. This machine moves forward, and can be turned easily, while the motor is running. Be careful not to strain yourself by moving it while the engine is not running.
3. Your machine may be fitted with a reverse gear – when reversing take care not to: reverse over your feet, trip over walking backwards or trap yourself in a corner.
4. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
5. If your compactor has transport wheels make sure they are fixed properly to move the machine.
6. If your equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

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v:032017

Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause **fatal** carbon monoxide poisoning. **Never** use it in domestic premises and only use it in other indoor situations if its suitability and the ventilation required has been **fully** assessed. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
4. Protect other people form the noise, debris, and dust. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around your work area.
5. The compactor may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this machine. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 98 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
3. You will need to wear an appropriate dustmask (with a minimum of EN149 FFP3(s) protection) when you are compacting material that causes dust.
4. You must wear safety boots (EN345 or BS1870/4972).
5. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

PLATE COMPACTOR

1. Check your machine, engine, and all equipment. Do not use anything found damaged – contact the hire company.
2. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
3. Vibration from using this plate compactor can be hazardous. Warm your hands up before you start work, and wear gloves to keep your hands warm while you are working.
4. Make sure that you understand all of the controls. Before you start the machine, you must know how to stop it.

ACCESSORIES

1. When compacting asphalt or tarmac, use a water spray to prevent the surface sticking to the plate.
2. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the final surface.
3. If your compactor has transport wheels make sure they are safely stowed.

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. If possible move the machine away from your work area.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean diesel when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
7. If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING THE ENGINE

1. This section describes the starting procedure for most diesel engines.
2. If the hire company has given you special instructions, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
3. Check the oil and fuel levels before you try to start the engine.
4. Move the STOP control to the RUN position.
5. Check that the throttle lever is in the IDLE position.
6. Do not wear gloves when you start the engine. Also, make sure that you have no loose clothing or flapping sleeves that could get caught.
7. Fit the starting handle to the shaft, and check by turning it anti-clockwise that the ratchet mechanism works. Check also that the handle slides on and off the shaft easily.
8. Move the decompression valve lever into the decompression position.
9. If the engine is fitted with a cold start button, press it in when starting from cold.
10. Grasp the starting handle firmly in one hand – but do not wrap your thumb around the handle. Keep it on the same side as your fingers – this is very important. Your thumb could be broken if you wrap it around the handle, and the engine kicks back.
11. Crank the engine strongly before lowering the decompression lever smoothly. The engine should fire up. If it doesn't, go through the steps again from instruction 7 above.
12. If the engine is now running, slide the handle off the shaft.
13. If you let go of the handle when the engine fires up, do not try to grab it. Stop the engine using the stop control. Then start the engine again.
14. Never stop the engine using the decompression lever. This may damage the engine and will be regarded as misuse by the hire company. Only use the proper RUN/STOP control.

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

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