

## SOP - Plate Compactor

**DO NOT use this plant\* or complete this task unless you have been inducted in its safe use and operation by an Authorised Experienced Operator**

This SOP may not cover all possible hazards and risks and should be referred to as a control measure in the risk assessment process. Additional training may be required for high risk plant/work. Site and task may change required PPE.

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Eye protection must be worn



High visibility clothing must be worn



Hearing protection must be worn



Foot protection must be worn



Hand protection must be worn



Minimum P2 face mask or respirator must be worn when airborne dust or fumes are created



Protective body clothing must be worn

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

- Entanglement**  
Entanglement in moving parts
- Slip, Trips, Falls**  
Slip, trip, fall due to uneven or slippery work surfaces  
Slip, trip, fall due to steep working surfaces
- Exposure to Dust/Fumes**  
Exposure to Dust  
Exposure to other emissions released by the plant
- Other**  
Hearing damage from excessive noise  
Contact with hot or cold parts of plants  
Injury due to operating of plant in unsuitable weather conditions  
Injury due to plant malfunction or misuse  
Exposure to other emissions released by the plant
- Explosion**  
Explosion of gases, vapours or liquids
- Cutting, Stabbing or Puncturing**  
Injury from unexpected movement of plant
- Manual Task Injury**  
Manual task injury from plant vibration  
Manual task injury from incorrect manual handling techniques

### PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Complete site specific risk assessment
- ✓ Complete visual plant check before operation
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with plant operations and controls
- ✓ Ensure that guards are fitted, secured and functional in accordance with manufacturers guidelines
- ✓ If it is suspected utility lines are in the area, ensure you have the correct "Dial Before You Dig" plans available BEFORE you start work
- ✓ Prior to use ensure work area is clear of all hazardous obstructions. Pick up any bricks, glass rope, stones, steel, sticks, wire etc.

### OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Keep clear of moving plant parts
- ✓ Operate plant to the conditions of the work area
- ✓ Always operate on a firm and level surface
- ✓ Always have secure footing and balance, and firm two handed grip

- ✓ When operating on a relatively level grade, a plate compactor will move under its own power with the operator simply directing its travel path. When compacting on a grade that is not level, the operator might have to take steps to ensure their safety
- ✓ During uphill compaction, it might be necessary for the operator to swing the compactors handle around and pull the machine slightly
- ✓ Plate compactors tend to slide sideways when operating on a sloping terrain. To prevent the plate from sliding, steer the plate towards the rise of the slope to angle the machine
- ✓ Before making adjustments bring plant to a complete standstill and isolate

### ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ Allow plant to idle for a few seconds before shutting off engine
- ✓ Ensure stop button is depressed until the motor is completely stopped
- ✓ Allow plant to cool and disconnect the spark plug

wire before performing any maintenance, refuelling or cleaning

- ✓ Refuel plant at least 3 metres from combustibles
- ✓ Ensure plant is in good working order and stored in the appropriate location

### **DO NOT**

- ✗ Do not use if plant is faulty. Attach an Out of Service tag and report fault to your supervisor
- ✗ Do not operate plant inside a building or other enclosed environment that is not fully vented
- ✗ Do not operate plant on a fully compacted, hard or non-yielding surface, this could redirect the plate's vibratory forces away from the surface to the operator causing injury
- ✗ Do not refuel unless the engine is stopped and cool. Refuelling a hot engine can result in burns and explosions
- ✗ Do not over reach when operating plant
- ✗ Do not leave plant running unattended
- ✗ Do not leave keys in machinery whilst unattended
- ✗ Do not wear loose jewellery
- ✗ Do not use mobile phone while operating plant

**\*Plant in this SOP refers to any machinery, equipment, appliance, container, implement and tool.**