

## Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments

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### Overview

This standard covers the preparation and operation of a tractor with attachments. The competent use of a tractor with attachments requires considerable skill and knowledge.

The standard covers the use of tractors with a range of attachments in a variety of weather conditions and ground conditions and on a variety of terrain. These conditions will have an impact on the handling and use of the tractor.

When working with machinery or equipment you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

When using a tractor on the public highway you must hold the relevant licences for both yourself and the tractor.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

This standard is suitable for those who operate a tractor with attachments on or off the public highway.

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**Performance criteria**

*You must be able to:*

1. assess the risks associated with the required activity
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. prepare the tractor by carrying out **pre-start checks** and adjustments, in accordance with relevant legislation, **instructions and specifications**, including all safety guards
4. confirm that the tractor is safe and ready for use
5. mount and dismount the tractor safely
6. check and adjust the **operator environment** to meet your personal requirements
7. select the **attachments** to carry out the required work
8. confirm that the **attachments** are suitable for the tractor
9. confirm that the **attachments** are fitted securely and safely
10. confirm that the **attachments** are set or calibrated, where required
11. check the immediate area for hazards and obstacles before moving off, and at all times during operation of the tractor
12. use the correct warning signals at all times
13. operate and manoeuvre the tractor safely, in accordance with the type of tractor, **attachment** and operation being carried out
14. make sure that the attachment is in the transport position when not in use, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
15. modify the operating techniques to take into account changes in the weather, **ground conditions** or types of **terrain**
16. use **efficiency factors** to maintain the efficiency of the tractor and **attachment** performance by appropriate handling and maintenance
17. use the **attachment** safely at all times
18. monitor the operation of the **attachment** and recognise any faults
19. stop and isolate the tractor on completion of the activity
20. remove the **attachment** in accordance with **instructions and specifications**
21. leave the tractor and **attachment** secure after use and in the correct condition for future use
22. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
23. follow industry and business guidance to minimise environmental damage
24. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental

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and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the current legislation in relation to the preparation and operation of tractors and **attachments**
4. how to prepare the tractor and **attachment** by carrying out the required **pre-start checks** and adjustments
5. how to mount and dismount the tractor safely
6. how to start and stop the tractor safely
7. the function of all controls and instruments on the tractor and **attachment** being used
8. the types of **attachments** and how they should be secured and removed from the tractor
9. the types of **attachments** that are safe for use with the tractor you are using and those that are not
10. the conditions that should be taken into account when considering the use of **attachments**
11. how to set or calibrate the attachments, where required
12. the correct use of warning signals and indicators
13. the ways in which the tractor should be operated and manoeuvred, and that different weather, **ground conditions** and types of **terrain** must be taken into account
14. how to operate and use **attachments** safely including counterbalance
15. the draft control, position control, external hydraulic and electrical services on the tractor and attachment being used
16. how to put the **attachment** into the transport position and the work position, as required
17. the capabilities and limitations of the tractor and operator and the factors that may affect safety and efficiency
18. the types of hazards and obstacles that may be encountered when operating a tractor with **attachments** and how these should be dealt with
19. how to monitor the operation of the **attachment** and any actions that might be required
20. the common faults, defects and wearing parts on **attachments** used in your place of work

21. the sort of problems that may occur with the tractor or **attachment** , how to recognise them and the appropriate action to take
22. the importance of carrying out routine checks and maintenance to confirm that the tractor and **attachment** remain safe and in good working order
23. the reasons why the tractor and **attachment** should be left in the correct condition for future use
24. why it is important to maintain the safety and security of the tractor and **attachment** at all times
25. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
26. the potential impact that your activities could have on the environment and ways in which this can be minimised
27. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies

## Glossary

### Attachment/s include:

- trailed
- front or rear mounted
- fore-end loaders
- PTO and hydraulic drive equipment

### Efficiency factors:

- gears
- hydraulics
- tyre pressure
- counter balance
- ballasting
- engine revs

### Ground conditions:

- wet
- dry
- frost
- ice
- mud
- loose ground

### Instructions and specifications:

- drawings/plans
- schedules
- method statements
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- manufacturer's guidelines
- customer requirements
- verbal instructions

### Operator environment:

- seat
- steering wheel
- mirrors
- seat belt

### Pre-start checks:

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- fuel
- electrics
- tyres
- hoses
- fluids
- lubrication

**Terrain:**

- hard surfaces
- soft surfaces
- uneven surfaces
- slopes

**Links to other NOS**

LANCS7 Prepare and operate a tractor

LANCS59 Prepare and operate a powered vehicle with attachments

## Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments

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