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CONCRETE MIXER - (Diesel)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS

It is in the interests of those operating this equipment, and for the safety of others, that these **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS** are carefully read and understood before operating this equipment.

PURPOSE

1. This equipment is designed for mixing concrete, cement and plaster. It can also be used for mixing composts or other similar materials.

PERSONAL SAFETY

2. This equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it. It must not be operated by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
3. If the equipment is not used in a safe, careful and controlled way, personal injury or injury to others may result.
4. Take the necessary precautions when handling cement compounds, as they may be harmful to the eyes and lungs. Continued contact with cement may cause skin dermatitis, therefore wash hands thoroughly after contact with cement.
5. This equipment employs the use of diesel, which can cause fire and explosion if not handled in a safe manner.
6. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
7. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you, and others around you, will be working in a safe environment.
8. When using this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - Ear defenders giving protection for levels up to 98dB(A).
 - Safety waterproof boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.
 - Dust mask to a minimum of EN149ffp2(s) protection.
 - Impact resistant goggles to EN166-B or BS2092 protection.
 - Appropriate industrial gloves.

NOTE: Other types of work, or environment, may require a higher level of PPE.

OPERATING AREA SAFETY

WARNING: If used indoors or in confined spaces this equipment could cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Never use it in domestic premises and if used in other indoor situations you must ensure you first assess its suitability and the ventilation required for safe use. Mechanical extraction ventilation will be required in almost every case.

9. Before commencing work, ensure that the area you are to operate the equipment in is a safe environment. Erect safety barriers and warning signs as necessary.
10. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes, etc.).

11. Never run the equipment inside buildings, or in poorly ventilated locations, where they may be risk of serious or fatal injury from inhaling exhaust (toxic) fumes. **See warning above.**
12. Before commencing work, warn others who may be working in the vicinity of the equipment, to keep clear. If possible place safety barriers around your work area.
13. Protect others from noise and wet cement.
14. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
15. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

16. Visually inspect the equipment and all its accessories (engine, mixer, drum, stand, safety barriers, etc.) for serviceability (completeness, signs of damage, undue wear, etc.). Do not use the equipment if found damaged or worn - contact the hire company immediately.
17. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
18. Stop the equipment before attempting to make any adjustments.
19. Do not attempt to operate this equipment in confined or enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation due to the risk of inhaling toxic exhaust fumes, which can prove fatal.
20. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

USING THE EQUIPMENT

21. The equipment must be sited on firm and level ground.
22. Ideally, the mixer drum should be mounted on its stand. This part of the equipment is heavy; enlist additional assistance to lift and secure (with its locking clip) the mixer drum onto its stand.
23. Ensure the drum is rotating before loading mixing materials and when emptying the mixed materials.
24. The mixer drum rotates with a powerful rotating motion; therefore do not place hands, shovels, etc. inside the drum.
25. Take care; the drum will not stop rotating until the equipment is switched-off.
26. Do not attempt to move the mixer whilst the drum is rotating or full of mixing material.
27. Take care when tipping the mixed materials from the drum; undertake this action steadily to prevent the mixer from overbalancing.
28. If anyone approaches you, switch-off the equipment.

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STARTING & STOPPING THE EQUIPMENT

Note: Below is a brief description of **STARTING** procedure for the majority of concrete mixers. If the hire company has provided dedicated instructions for your type of machine – follows them.

29. Check both the engine fuel (diesel only) and oil levels.
30. Move the '**STOP**' control to the '**RUN**' position.
31. Move the throttle lever to the '**IDLE**' position.
32. Fit the starting handle to the shaft, turn it anti-clockwise to engage the ratchet mechanism. Check also that the handle slides on and off the shaft easily.
33. Move the decompression valve lever into the '**DECOMPRESSION**' position.
34. If the equipment has been fitted with a '**COLD START**' button, press it in when starting from cold.
35. Grasp the starting handle firmly in one hand, But do not wrap your thumb around the handle, keep it in line and on the same side as your remaining fingers. Failure to do this, should the engine 'kick-back', may result in serious injury to your thumb.
36. Crank the engine vigorously before lowering the '**DECOMPRESSION**' lever smoothly. Should the engine fail to start, repeat the actions at step from 30 to 36.
37. Once the engine is running, slide the starting handle off the shaft.
38. 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 to stop the engine.

REFUELLING

39. Refuel with diesel only.
40. The engine must not be running whilst refuelling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
41. Do not smoke whilst refuelling.
42. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap, then, remove it.
43. Using a clean funnel, pour diesel into the fuel tank. Care must be taken not to overfill or spill. Fuel spilt on the engine must be wiped dry, that spilt on the ground must be removed and the area covered with sand or earth. Fuel soaked clothes must be removed.
44. Replace the fuel filler cap securely.

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

45. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
46. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
47. Immediately you have finished using the mixer, wash it down (especially the interior of the drum) with clean water to remove all traces of cement.
48. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from dried cement, dust and debris.
49. When the equipment is left unattended for long periods (i.e. overnight), ensure it is made secure to prevent unauthorised use or loss.

COLLECTION & PICK-UP

50. For safety reasons this equipment requires you to use a **LORRY**.

