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PLATE COMPACTOR - Reversible (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 compacting crushed hardcore, backfill, asphalt, paving blocks and other similar surfaces.

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 may result. If you have not operated this type of equipment before, you should receive instruction/guidance before using it.
4. Before attempting to operate this equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
5. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you will be working in a safe environment.
6. Vibration from this equipment may be at a level that could be hazardous to the user, if operated for extended periods. Always wear gloves and ensure hands are warm before starting work and they remain warm and dry. Do not grasp the equipment too tightly, only sufficiently to safely control the machine. If you experience tingling, numbness or loss of strength in the fingers – stop working immediately. Take frequent breaks and exercise the hands and arms to minimise risks.
7. If this equipment is used on a public highway you may have to be HAUC compliant – check with the hire company.
8. Exercise caution as this equipment uses diesel, which is flammable.
9. When operating this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.
 - Ear defenders giving protection for levels up to 105 dB(A).
 - Dust mask to a minimum of EN149:2001 ffp2(s) protection.
 - Safety goggles to EN166 or BS2092.
 - 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.

10. Before commencing work, ensure that the area you are to operate the equipment in is a safe environment.
11. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and that no one is near you that could distract you.
12. Be aware that operating this equipment may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.
13. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
14. Before commencing work, warn others who may be working in the vicinity of the equipment, to keep clear. If possible place barriers and safety signs around your work area.
15. 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.**
16. Where at all possible, protect others working in the vicinity, from the noise, debris, and dust.
17. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

18. Visually check your equipment and all its accessories for serviceability (completeness, undue damage, wear, etc.). Do not use the equipment if found to be incomplete, damaged or worn - contact the hire company immediately.
19. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments operating characteristics and controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
20. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

USING THE EQUIPMENT

21. Be aware that this equipment is heavy. Enlist assistance when unloading the equipment from a trailer or vehicle.
22. Always grip the equipments handle with both hands when working.
23. If this equipment is fitted with transport wheels, ensure they are stowed (or removed) and correctly secured before commencing work.
24. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the final surface.
25. Use a water spray on asphalt surfaces to prevent the work surface from 'sticking' to the underside of the compactor plate.
26. The clutch on this equipment stops the plate from vibrating whilst the engine is idling.

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27. The equipment is manoeuvrable once the plate is vibrating and can be moved forwards and backwards. When moving backwards, be careful not to trip.
28. At all times, keep feet and loose clothing clear of the vibrating plate.
29. Allow the equipment to travel at its own speed. Do not attempt to make it move faster.
30. When compacting on sloping surfaces, always move the equipment up and down the slope, never across it.
31. When not using the equipment, stop the engine and turn the fuel tap to the 'OFF' position.

COLLECTION & PICK-UP

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

**STARTING THE EQUIPMENT**

Note: If the hire company has provided you with special or additional instructions, you must follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.

32. Always start the equipment on firm and level ground.
33. Check for correct oil and fuel levels before attempting to start the equipment.
34. Turn the fuel valve to the 'ON' position.
35. Set the throttle lever to the 'tick-over' position.

ELECTRIC START

36. In cold weather, operate the cold start device for approximately 20secs, then operate the 'START' control.
37. Leave the throttle in the 'tick-over' position until the engine has warmed-up and you are ready to commence work.
38. If the engine fails to start, operate the 'COLD START' for a little longer, then repeat action 36.

RECOIL START

39. Hold the equipment firmly when starting the equipment.
40. Pull the choke 'OUT' to the 'COLD START' position.
41. Hold the equipment firmly with the left hand, with the right hand take-up the slack of the starter handle cord until you feel the starter has engaged with the engine. Now pull firmly on the starting handle. Once the engine has started, allow the starter cord to retract under control.
42. Once the engine is running, squeeze and release the throttle control. Push the choke lever 'IN' once the engine has warmed-up.

REFUELLING

43. Before refueling, move the equipment to a safe environment.
44. Stop the engine and allow it to cool down before refuelling.
45. **DO NOT SMOKE WHILST REFUELLING**, as diesel is inflammable.
46. Ensure the area around the filler cap is clean.
47. Use a clean funnel and clean diesel when refuelling.
48. Be careful not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine. Should a spillage occur, wipe clean and dispose of all fuel soaked material carefully and safely.
49. Replace the fuel cap and secure correctly.

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

50. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
51. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
52. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from debris.
53. When the equipment is left unattended for long periods (i.e. overnight), ensure it is made secure to prevent unauthorised use or loss.