

# Heavy Equipment Safety

## Safety Meeting Packet

### Protect Your Workforce



Heavy equipment is widely used across many industries including manufacturing, construction, and agriculture. Like any other piece of equipment, heavy equipment comes with a variety of risks and hazards that vary widely based on the specific type of equipment and its purpose. To reduce the risk of injury while using heavy equipment it is important to keep in mind some general operation standards, common hazards and precautions.

### General Operation

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not have any general standards for heavy equipment operators, but to minimize the risk of injury when operating heavy equipment consider the following:

All heavy equipment must have working:

- Service, emergency, and parking brake systems.
- Headlights, tail lights, and brake lights.
- Audible warning device (horn).
- Intact windshield with working wipers.
- Seat belts for the number of workers to be transported.

Pieces of equipment that are loaded from the top must have cab shields or canopies to protect the driver. Roll-over and falling debris protection systems should also be in place as necessary. Equipment should not be modified in any way unless approved by the manufacturer.

### Hazards and Precautions

The types of hazards and the precautions necessary to prevent them vary across industries, but there are some hazards that are quite common throughout most industry types.

Below are some common hazards associated with the operation of heavy equipment and steps that employers can take to prevent injury.

### Falling Materials

To prevent falling materials, make sure the equipment is not overloaded and that the load is properly balanced with all material securely contained. Employees must also utilize head protection should debris fall from the equipment.

### Dust, Dirt, and Silt

Exposure to dust, dirt, and silt can be harmful to employees' health. Employees should try to stay upwind or away from dust exposures and use respirators if necessary.

Avoid using compressed air to clean equipment to keep airborne dust to a minimum. Spraying or misting water near dust-generating activities can also help to control dust levels.

### Noise

Heavy equipment generally produces a lot of noise. To protect against the risk of hearing loss, employees should use equipment that has enclosed cabs when they are able.

Employers must make hearing protection available if employees are exposed to noises with an 8-hour time weighted average of 85 decibels or greater.



## Electricity

When working in the vicinity of power lines or energized transmitters, OSHA requires that equipment maintains the following minimum clearances to avoid the risk of an electric shock:

- Lines rated 50 kilovolts (kV) or less: 10 feet
- Lines rated over 50 kV: 10 feet plus .4 inch for each kV over 50, or twice the length of the line insulator

If the equipment is in transit with the boom lowered and no load, the minimum clearance shall be:

- Less than 50 kV: 4 feet
- Over 50 kV up to 345 kV: 10 feet
- Up to 750 kV: 16 feet



## Worker Training

Employers should educate their workers about the hazards associated with the operation of heavy equipment, precautions they can take to prevent injury, and OSHA's general operation standards. Employers should not allow an employee to operate equipment prior to being properly trained.

Training should instruct employees to:

- Correctly operate the equipment.
- Inspect equipment before every shift, including tires, tracks, components, and other mechanisms for damage. Repair and replace any defective parts.
- Use a reverse signal alarm or signaler if the rear view is obstructed.

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For additional information please review 29 CFR 1910 Subpart F and 29 CFR 1926 Subpart O.

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# Heavy Equipment Safety Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department / Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meeting Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_  AM  PM  
 Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

### Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

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### Internal Procedures Reviewed:

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By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
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(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees not present: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: \_\_\_\_\_

Actions Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Disclaimer:**

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.

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