1921 Safety Guidance

v:032017

Mini Excavator Trailer

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE using the Mini Excavator Trailer

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. It is important to read all of this leaflet and others provided before you use the Mini Excavator Trailer.
3. If your vehicle/trailer combination exceeds 3.5 tonnes and you are "at work" then the tachograph rules apply. Find out about tachographs.
4. This Mini Excavator Trailer is designed solely to carry a mini excavator, up to its rated carrying capacity, being towed by a road legal vehicle on made up roads. It must not be used for any other purpose.
5. It must not be used for carrying passengers or livestock.
6. The use of this mini Excavator Trailer can cause injury or damage if it is not used in a careful and controlled way.
7. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: A safety helmet complying with EN397; Strong gloves for handling wire ropes; High-visability clothing complying with EN471 when working on the public highway or on a construction site.
8. You should not use this little Mini Excavator Trailer unless you are authorised, and have an appropriate driving licence. See Driving Licence.
9. This Mini Excavator Trailer must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. The manual maneuvering of this Mini Excavator Trailer should be carried out by one or more able bodied adults. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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DRIVING LICENCE

1. You must hold a full driving licence to tow any trailer. Most drivers who passed their driving test before 1st January 1997 have licence categories allowing them to drive vehicle and trailer combinations weighing up to a combined weight of 8.25 tonnes.
2. With effect from 1st January 1997 the EC Directive on Driving Licences (91/439/EEC) came into effect, affecting new drivers passing their test after that date and HGV drivers who obtained their licence after 31st December 1991.
   These new drivers are only allowed to drive vehicle and trailer combinations in the categories listed below without taking a further driving test.
   - Vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes (category B) with a 750kg trailer (4.25 tonnes total **MAM***).
   - Category B vehicles with larger trailers i.e. heavier than 750kg, provided that the combined **MAM** does not exceed 3.5 tonnes and the gross MAM* of the trailer does not exceed the unladen weight of the towing vehicle. To be able to tow combinations outside this ruling requires the passing of an additional test.
   - New HGV drivers and those who have passed their HGV tests since 1 January 1992 will be restricted to towing trailers up to 750kg until they pass an additional test.
   - **MAM**=Maximum Authorised Mass (permitted maximum weight = weight of vehicle and/or trailer i.e. the maximum designed carrying capacity).
   You should examine your Driving Licence and the vehicle and trailer VIN and ID plates closely to establish your limitations or enquire with the DVLA. (Leaflet INF30).
   - You must establish that the vehicle to be used to tow this trailer is capable of doing so. You must not exceed the vehicle manufacturers recommended towing limit, which should be found in the vehicle manufacturers handbook and on the VIN plate on the chassis. The Maximum Gross Weight (G.V.W) or Maximum authorised mass (MAM) of the trailer will be found on the identification plate, normally located in the 'A' frame.
4. The driver of the towing vehicle must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment:
   - A safety helmet, complying with EN 397, when working on a construction site.
   - Strong gloves for handling wire ropes
   - High-visability clothing complying with EN471 when working on the public highway or on a construction site.
   Check your Mini Excavator Trailer. If anything is damaged, do not use the trailer and contact your hire company immediately. Ensure that the trailer hitch is compatible with the towbar on the towing vehicle – it will be either a 50mm ball or an eye coupling.
5. If the trailer is to be detached from the towing vehicle, always apply the trailer hand brake, lower the jockey wheel and support legs. It may also be necessary to chock the wheel in some circumstances.
6. If the trailer is left unattended ensure that it is protected from theft with either a hitch lock, wheel clamp or other suitable security device.
7. The driver of the towing vehicle should carry out the following checks each time the trailer is used. It will have been supplied in good condition and ready for use by Any hire company. You must make sure that it has not been damaged or altered since then.
   - Are all the lights undamaged?
   - Are the 7-core cable and plug undamaged?
   - Is the correct number plate fitted? (both registration number and style)
   - Is the breakaway cable and secondary coupling undamaged and correctly connected to the trailer handbrake mechanism?
   - Are the tyre pressures correct? (seek advice from your hire company) and all tyres free from cuts, bulges and with adequate tread, (including the spare)? Tyres must have a continuous tread depth of at least 1.6mm on cars, light vans and trailers, across the centre three-quarters of the width (1mm for other vehicles).
   - Are your settables that the wheel nuts/bolts are tightened to the correct torque?
   - Is the trailer ball or pin in good condition and secure?
   - Are the jockey wheel and any corner stabiles or prop stands in good condition and secure and fully raised and secure before moving?
   - Are the lights always clean and working?
   - Are the tyres in good condition?
   - Are the stabiles or pins