

BULLETIN

Tractor and rural machinery safety

This information bulletin was prepared in response to common questions asked about tractor and rural machinery safety. A person operating a Primary Industry business must not allow a worker to drive a tractor unless satisfied that the worker has been adequately trained or is competent to drive a tractor of that class.

General information pertaining to tractors

Every wheeled tractor between 560 and 3,860 kilograms is required to be fitted with a protective cab or frame which conforms to specifications laid down by Australian Standard AS1636 - *Protective cabs and frames for agricultural tractors*.

The weights described are the lightest weight of a tractor normally available for retail sale when new without water, fuel or oil. Exemptions are tractors used exclusively in orchards or inside or in close proximity to buildings where it is not practicable for work to be carried out with a frame or cab.

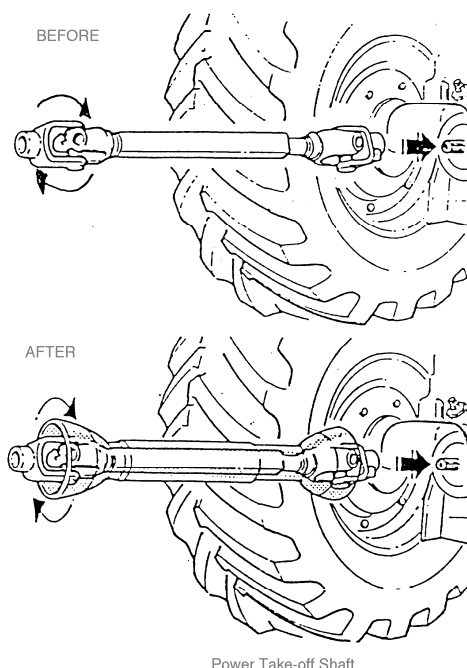
Passengers on tractors

A person operating a Primary Industry business or any person driving a tractor must not allow a passenger to ride on a tractor unless an additional seat of adequate strength is fitted. Additional seating must have a back rest or be shaped to prevent the passenger slipping from the seat and must have a footrest and hand holds.

Power take-off guards

Any power transmission equipment attached to a tractor for the purpose of driving another machine, and every joint by which such equipment is linked, must be fitted with guards that ensure any person at or near the machine is protected and his or her clothes are protected from coming into contact with any moving parts of the equipment and the joints.

Guards must conform to Australian Standard AS1121 - *Guards for Agriculture Drives* (refer to picture) or be of no less strength and give any person at least the same degree of protection as if conforming to AS1121.



Before hitching of implements

A properly hitched load helps to keep the front wheels on the ground. To avoid overturning backwards, NEVER hitch the load to the rear axle or attach to a high draw bar hitch!

When pulling heavy loads or when pulling other vehicles from a bog it is better to use reverse gear and pull from a hitch point on the front of the tractor. Using this method the tractor cannot turn over backwards.

Guarding of machine components

Every set-screw, bolt or key or any revolving part of power driven machinery must be so sunk, encased or otherwise effectively guarded as to prevent danger. All spur and other toothed or friction gearing of machinery must be effectively guarded so as to prevent danger, or must be situated as to be *safe as if it were guarded*.

Any transmission machinery, or wheel or pulley without a solid disc centre must be effectively guarded or be situated to be as safe as if it were guarded.

Every shaft, auger (not being the auger of a post hole digger or that which operates directly in conjunction with the cutting mechanism of a harvesting machine) must be effectively guarded or situated as to be as safe *as if it were guarded*. Flat belt drives, v-belt drives and chain drives must also be effectively guarded or so situated as to be as safe *as if guarded*. All guarding should conform to AS 2153 - *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*.

For further information please contact NT WorkSafe on 1800 019 115 or go to www.worksafe.nt.gov.au