

Plant

12.01.08

Operator competency & maintenance requirements >

This information bulletin provides general information in regard to the operation of plant and equipment not requiring a licensed operator or registration as designated plant under the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#).

Legislation

Under the Work Health (Occupational Health and Safety) Regulations certain plant such as cranes, concrete placing booms etc. must only be operated by a person holding the appropriate licence. For details see Schedule 3 - Licences. Under work health legislation there is no requirement to hold a licence for equipment such as excavators, loaders, road making plant, backhoes, bobcats etc. The emphasis is on competency to operate safely the particular plant being operated.

Note: There are requirements under the [Traffic Act](#) if using this equipment in a public place.

Training

There is a requirement under Regulation 43 for employers to ensure that operators of any equipment receive sufficient information, instruction and training to enable them to perform their work safely. This includes not only the operation of the equipment but also in all hazards that may be associated with the equipment. Things such as public safety, location of the work and traffic must be assessed prior to work commencing.

The information, instruction and training provided shall be determined according to the nature of the risk associated with the work to be performed by the worker and the competency of the worker, and shall be provided in a manner appropriate to the workplace.

Training or assessment of competency could be by:

- on the job training by an experienced operator;
- attendance at an appropriate industry course;
- experience and competency could be verified by a previous employer;

Adequate records should be kept of any training or assessment. Remember this should relate to particular items of plant and not just a general category. NT WorkSafe may request to view these records in order to verify that training and assessments have been conducted

If a worker cannot verify previous experience and competency then the worker must be trained and reassessed. Employers must also keep records of the hazard identification and risk assessment

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carried out. The information, instruction and training provided must be reviewed and revised at regular intervals and records must also be kept of the information, instruction and training provided to a worker.

Maintenance of plant

In addition, owners of plant and equipment have a duty of care to ensure that a safe workplace is maintained for all workers and anyone affected by the work. Failure to provide a safe workplace can result in fines being imposed on the owners or legal action being taken. With this in mind owners are reminded of the following recommendations:

- Owners of machinery must ensure potentially hazardous machinery is not approached while it is in motion, or stationary and operating.
- Owners of machinery must maintain machinery in a safe condition under all conditions of use.
- If machinery is found to be faulty it must be repaired as soon as practicable.
- A risk assessment of faulty machinery must be done. Any machinery that is faulty must be either put out of service until repaired or appropriate procedures put in place if the machinery is to continue operating provided it is safe to do so. These should be documented and all workers instructed on these procedures.
- Owners of machinery when selling, leasing, or allowing other persons to operate that machinery must ensure that the machinery is safe to use. Any person that is going to operate the machinery must be made aware of any faults that could effect the safe operation.
- Mobile plant must be maintained in a safe and serviceable condition regardless of whether it is operated on private or public roads.
- All safety devices fitted must be operable and safety devices are not to be removed, modified or tampered with.

Operators of equipment regardless of whether a licence is required must have had appropriate training and been assessed as competent to operate the equipment by appropriately qualified persons. Records of this training and assessment should be kept.

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