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## PLATE COMPACTOR (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 hardcore and the levelling of paving blocks or 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.
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. 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 98 dB(A).
  - Dust mask to a minimum of EN149 ffp2(s) protection.
  - Appropriate industrial gloves.

**Note:** Other types of work, or environment, may require a higher level of PPE.

### OPERATING AREA SAFETY

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

### OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

#### SAFETY CHECKS

15. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments operating characteristics and controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
16. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.
17. 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.

#### STARTING & OPERATING 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.

18. If your equipment has transport wheels, make sure they are safely stowed before attempting to start the equipment.
19. Check for correct oil and fuel levels before attempting to start the equipment.
20. Move the 'STOP' control lever to the 'RUN' position.
21. Check that the 'THROTTLE' lever is in the 'IDLE' position.
22. Fit the starting handle to the shaft and turn it anti-clockwise to engage the ratchet mechanism. Also check also that the handle slides on and off the shaft easily.
23. Move the 'DECOMPRESSION VALVE' lever into the 'DECOMPRESSION' position.
24. If the equipment has been fitted with a 'COLD START' button, press it in when starting from cold.
25. Grasp the starting handle firmly in one hand, but do not wrap your thumb around the handle; keep it in line and on the same side as your remaining fingers. Failure to do this, should the engine 'kick-back', may result in serious injury to your thumb.
26. Crank the engine vigorously before lowering the **DECOMPRESSION** lever smoothly. If, the engine fails to start, repeat the actions from 20 to 26.
27. Once the engine is running, slide the starting handle off its shaft.
28. Never stop the engine using the 'DECOMPRESSION' lever. This may damage the engine and will be regarded as misuse by the hire company. Only use the proper 'RUN/STOP' control.
29. Warm hands before starting the equipment, and keep them warm by wearing gloves, as some machines have a vibrating action and are therefore hazardous to the operator.
30. Ensure you grip the equipments handle with both hands while working.
31. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the final surface.
32. Use a water spray on the surface being worked on to prevent the work surface from 'sticking' to the underside of the compactor plate.

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**REFUELLING**

33. Before refuelling, move the machine to a safe environment.
34. Stop the engine and allow it to cool down before refuelling.
35. Do not smoke whilst refuelling, as diesel is inflammable.
36. Ensure the area around the filler cap is clean.
37. Use a clean funnel and clean diesel when refuelling.
38. 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.
39. Replace the fuel cap and secure correctly.

**SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE**

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

**COLLECTION & PICK-UP**

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