

Project:	Winch Operations	RA No:	66	Review Date
Operation / Task:	Use of Vehicle Winch	Persons at risk:	Fitters	31/01/2027
Location / Area:	Workshop/Yard/Site	Public at risk:	No	
Monitoring Responsibility:	Depot Manager, Transport, Workshop Manager Supervisors, Fleet Director and Team.			

KEY

S = Severity Rating

L = Likelihood of Occurrence

RR = Risk Rating

5	5	10	15	20	25	R Unacceptable risk, plan out or add further controls. O Acceptable only if no other method viable & with high level controls in place. Y Acceptable with suitable controls. G Acceptable, no further action required.
4	4	8	12	16	20	
3	3	6	9	12	15	
2	2	4	6	8	10	
1	1	2	3	4	5	
		1	2	3	4	5

Severity

Likelihood

Activity	Hazards/Risks Identified	Risk Rating			Control Measures	Residual Risk			Responsibility
		S	L	RR		S	L	RR	
Using Electric Vehicle Winch General Safety Precautions	Moving part hazard, Unfamiliarity of winch, Entrapment, Crush, Slip, Lacerations, Sprains, Fracture	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not operate or install winch without reading and understanding the operator's manual. Keep hands clear of wire rope, hook and fairlead opening during operation and when spooling. Stand clear of wire rope and load during operation. Keep others away. Inspect winch installation and wire rope condition before operating winch. Do not use to move persons. Do not exceed winch's rated capacity. Never touch wire rope or hook while in tension. Be certain the anchor you select will withstand load. Never wrap wire rope back onto itself. 	4	3	12	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director
Using Electric Vehicle Winch General Safety Precautions	Moving part hazard, Unfamiliarity of winch, Entrapment, Crush, Slip, Lacerations, Sprains, Fracture	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to initiating winching operation be sure any element which can interfere with safe winching operations is removed. Take your time, sloppy rigging causes accidents. Know your winch, take the time to fully understand your winch and the winching operation. Do not use winch to secure a load during transport. Do not submerge in water. Wear heavy leather gloves when handling the wire rope. 	4	3	12	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director

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Most effective

Least effective

Elimination

Substitution

Engineering Controls

Administrative Controls

PPE

1. Negligible

2. Minor Injury

3. Major Injury (RIDDOR)

4. Fatality

5. Multiple Fatality

1. Improbable

2. Remote 1 – 10%

3. Possible 10 – 50%

4. Probable 50 – 90%

5. Almost certain 90%+

Severity

5

4

3

2

1

1 2 3 4 5

Likelihood

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Never winch with less than five (5) wraps of wire rope around the drum. 				
Operator	Untrained Inexperienced Impatience No Safety Equipment or Attire	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and understand the manual. Keep a copy with you for reference If there is something you don't understand "Do not guess" seek assistance from experienced operators. Be patient and assess the load situation thoroughly Always use accredited and rated accessories e.g. hook chains etc. Wear safety attire always. Think safety first, middle and last. 	4	3	12	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director
Wire Rope	Frayed - Breakage - steel splinters when rope is being handled. Kinked - Breakage - kink may catch on things i.e. The end of the tray etc. Severely weakens rope Over Size - Breakage - too big a rope wrapped	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace. Replace. Replace. Always use recommended rope size. Seek advice from accredited wire rope manufacturer. 	4	3	12	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director

Owner: Head of HSQE	Version: 3	LF263
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Most effective
Least effective

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2	2	4	6	8	10	15
1	1	2	3	4	5	7
		1	2	3	4	5
		Likelihood				

Risk Rating Legend:

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	around a small diameter drum will cause early fatigue.								
Wire Rope	Under Size - Load may winch on unevenly and fall. Breakage - To have a rope break under load can be catastrophic. It can whip in any direction causing injury or death and may allow your load to run free to cause further hazards.	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace. Always use recommended rope size. Seek advice from accredited wire rope manufacturer. Replace. Never stand between the load and the winch always winch on level ground. Always wear safety PPE/equipment on hands, feet body and eyes especially. 	4	3	12	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director
Winching Loads	Winching on uneven ground - Load may winch on unevenly and fall. Winching on a hill or slope - Winching uphill may put far more load on your equipment than it is rated for Winching rolling loads - Not preparing load for winching - The load may not be prepared for	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always load on the most level ground you can find and within reason, load across the hill so your load will not roll away if it becomes dislodged. Winching downhill may allow the load to over-run the rope resulting in the bird nesting of you rope. (See "Rope consideration while winching" section Read and understand the manual. Keep a copy with you for reference. 	4	2	8	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director

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	winching properly. Shock loads - This type of load imposes a strain on the winch many times the actual weight of the load and can cause failure of the cable or of the winch.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid shock loads at all costs. You must make sure that there is tension on the rope at all times whilst winching, this becomes a problem when winching loads slightly down hill or powered load traveling faster than winching speed. 				
Winching Over a long Duration	Overheating of gear box - Breakdown of oil causing eventual failure. Excessive wear, shorter life span, eventual failure	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop winch and check for temperature rises. Allow until to cool. After a big job check oil and replace if burnt or has lost viscosity. Check rope and re-grease. 	4	2	8	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director
Side Pulling	Loads up the winch on an incorrect angle - Winch damage or failure. Severe wear and tear. Rope will try to jump cheek plates	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fit roller fairlead or guide bars 	4	2	8	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director
Winch Loads Bigger Than Recommended	Winch failure, rope breakage, and severe wear and tear - Personal injury or death. Loss of load. Damage to truck.	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ease the load on the winch you may find it necessary to utilise a rated snatch block. This effectively halves the speed and halves the stress on the winch. Do not stand on vehicle bed when using winch, all operatives to remain on ground level and not mount vehicle. 	4	3	12	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director

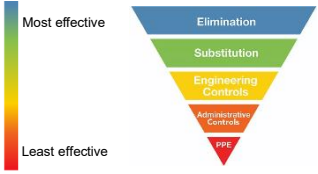
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Suspended Loads	Don't stand under suspended loads - Serious injury or death may occur. Do not use a winch that is not fitted with a brake to lift loads Cluttered work area Maintain a clear working space Rope and equipment failure Impatience Laziness Incorrect positioning of lifting equipment - The load may fall	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow all safety procedures and stay well clear of the load, use only certified lifting equipment, make sure winch is fitted with a brake, clean and tidy the work site, take time to overlook the whole procedure, position the lifting point correctly. 	4	3	12	Depot Manager. Workshop Manager Transport Manager Fleet Director

Risk Assessment Prepared By:

Paul Lynch

Signature:



Date:

31/01/2026

Risk Assessment Reviewed By:

Daniela Rizvan

Signature:



Date:

31/01/2026



Owner: Head of HSQE

Version: 3

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