

## SSOW 06: MOVING/LOADING/UNLOADING OF BUCKETS - TRANSPORTERS

Issue Number: 07

Date of Issue: 31/01/2026

Based on: RA31

### PUPPOSE

This Safe System of Work sets out the required controls and safe working practices for the safe movement, loading, and unloading of excavator buckets using transport vehicles. It ensures that all drivers and operatives carry out these activities safely, consistently, and in accordance with RA31.

### PPE REQUIREMENTS

For this activity, the following PPE must be worn



High-vis Vest / Jacket (BS EN 471)



Safety Boots (EN ISO 20345:2011) (S3)



Safety Gloves (Cut resistant) (EN 420:2003)



Safety Helmet (EN 397:1995)



Safety Glasses (EN 116:2001)



Only where noise levels exceed 80 dB

### TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Valid Cat C LGV licence (or correct licence for the vehicle).
- A49/50 Loader Securer competency (certificate carried at all times).
- Lynch Driver Induction, including SSOW for bucket loading/unloading.
- Briefing on RA21 and RA40.
- Awareness of site rules, traffic routes, and exclusion zones.
- Competence in using chains, slings, and securing equipment.
- Understanding of emergency stop procedures and Deadman Lever isolation.

### EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Suitable transport vehicle for the load.
- Certified drop chains with correct SWL.
- Quick hitch compatible with the bucket.
- Load-securing equipment (chains, straps, tensioners).
- Barriers or cones for exclusion zones.
- Communication device for coordination.
- Safe access steps/handholds.
- Wheel chocks where required.

### SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

- All drivers to have been briefed on RA21 Moving/Loading/Unloading of buckets onto transport vehicles.
- All drivers to have a valid Cat C LGV license or valid category for vehicle being driven
- Follow SSOW for moving/loading/unloading buckets as per Lynch Driver Induction Pack.
- All site delivery drivers to be in possession of a valid A49/50 Loader Securer Certificate must be carried at all times
- The loading/unloading of buckets and plant must be carried out on firm, level ground and in accordance with L Lynch SSOW. (If in doubt contact your line manager)
- You must be briefed and familiar with RA40 Moving/Loading/Unloading of buckets.
- Keep unauthorized personnel away from vehicle when loading/unloading buckets.
- If any pedestrians or personnel approach the working area the operator must stop operations immediately by use of the Deadman Lever to isolate hydraulic operations of the machine.
- Never work directly underneath overhead power cables.

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- One bucket only must be carried by the quick hitch at any one time.
- When loading any plant, the machine must always be in low gear and RPM must not exceed 50%
- Multiple buckets must only be carried, loaded/unloaded by use of certificated drop chain with weight exceedance greater than the load being carried.
- Always visually inspect chains prior to use for stretching or damage (If any chains are found to be defective or out of a valid test date these must be quarantined and reported to appointed/authorized person immediately)
- Driver to mount/demount cab or platform using steps/handholds provided using three points of contact at all times. No jumping from the vehicle bed/cab of the vehicle under any circumstances.
- Always ensure three points of contact are maintained at all times.

### IDENTIFIED RISKS

The SSOW above has been compiled after identifying the following risks from this activity

- Overturn of vehicle/plant due to excessive load or unstable ground
- Crushing or collision between load, personnel, or vehicles
- Falls from height when accessing/dismounting vehicle bed or cab
- Electrocutation from contact with overhead cables or utilities
- Struck-by injuries from swinging or unstable buckets
- Hand injuries during chain attachment/detachment
- Load shift during transport due to inadequate securing

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA31**

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<b>Uncontrolled if printed or copied. Always check for latest version.</b>		Page 2 of 2