

SSOW 08: USE OF QUICK HITCH ATTACHMENTS

Issue Number: 07

Date of Issue: 31/01/2026

Based on: RA14

PURPOSE

This SSOW explains the safe way to change Quick Hitch attachments so operators can work confidently, avoid dropped loads, and make sure the hitch is fully engaged before use.

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)	N/A	N/A

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Only trained, authorised operators may use Quick Hitch systems.
- Operators must have Quick Hitch-specific training and understand the manufacturer's instructions.
- Toolbox talks must cover site-specific risks, exclusion zones, and communication signals.
- Banksmen must be competent in plant-person interface controls.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Excavator fitted with an approved fully automatic Quick Hitch.
- Manufacturer's Quick Hitch Operator Manual (kept in the cab).
- Supplied disengagement tool.
- Certified attachments with suitable lifting points.

SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK

- Operation of Quick Hitch is limited to trained and competent staff. Additional training provided by means of toolbox talks for site specific safety issues.
- Quick Hitch to be placed in position and plant turned off prior to disengagement. Quick Hitch to be disengaged in a slow/steady motion to reduce the frequency of the buckets "rocking" motion. Use of Semi-Automatic Quick Hitches have been prohibited by L Lynch.
- OPERATOR TO CHECK HITCH IS FULLY AND CORRECTLY ENGAGED PRIOR TO USE** – If in doubt seek advice from L Lynch Management. Operator should ensure that the quick hitch device locks independently on both front and rear closing latches so that no swing of the attachment can occur through being locked on a front pin only.
- ONLY ONE ATTACHMENT MAY BE CARRIED ON THE QUICK HITCH AT ANY TIME.**
- Staff to use the disengagement tool provided and report any faults immediately.
- Ensure that bucket is left at a safe height to reduce bending or over-reaching.
- Operator to utilise handrails and steps to enter and leave the cab safely.
- Operator to ensure that hydraulic control isolation lever is engaged before leaving the cab to change Quick Hitch.
- Specific Quick Hitch Training is provided for every Lynch Plant Operator.
- Prohibition of any Site Worker in risk area of excavator, defined as area underneath the bucket. NEVER swing an attachment over or near other workers.
- Quick Hitch Operator Manual in cab of machine to be followed at all times.
- For quick hitch devices that are permanently attached to a machine, a thorough examination must be

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undertaken at a minimum of once per year by a competent person or more frequently if required by the manufacturer or local legislation.

- For quick hitch devices that are not permanently attached to the machine, a thorough examination must be undertaken at a minimum of once every 6 months by a competent person or more frequently if required by the manufacturer's instructions and/or local legislation.
- If the quick hitch device is used for lifting it must be designed to do so, and the weight of the device must be deducted from the safe working load of the excavator.
- Damaged or defective equipment must not be used and must be instantly taken out of service prior to be replaced or repaired.

IDENTIFIED RISKS

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

- Machine dipper arm striking site worker
- Bucket / Attachment detaching from Quick Hitch and striking an operative
- Bucket "swing back" when Quick Hitch released
- Fingers or hands caught in the Quick Hitch mechanism.
- Upper limb strains from disengaging Quick Hitch
- Falls from cab
- Unauthorised operation of plant during attachment change.
- Public exposure to plant movement (where applicable).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO RISK ASSESSMENT RA14

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