

Post Driver – Guarding

AgSafe Safe Work Procedure

General

1. Effective guards must be used while in operation to protect operator
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required, hearing and eye protection MUST be provided
3. Other nip, shear and crush points – e.g. positional controls, hinged guards – should be designed to prevent shearing and crushing

Drive belts, pulleys, chains, sprockets and drive shafts

1. All drive belts, pulleys, chains, sprockets and drive shafts must be fully guarded, including 'back guarding', to prevent contact from behind
2. Chains and sprockets must be fully enclosed for their whole length

STABILITY

1. The post driver must remain stable during travel and use
2. The designer must specify the essential features that affect the post driver's stability during use, in particular its weight
3. The design of the post driver should incorporate means for allowing the post driver to be stored in a stable position
4. The post driver should be designed so that it can be transported with the hammer in its lowered position

Note: There are numerous variables that can affect the stability of a post driver which are outside the control of the designer and can only be determined by its user. These include the type of tractor to which the post driver is attached, the type of ground on which it is operating, the slope of the ground where it is being used or transported over, and the driven speed of the tractor.

GUIDING THE POST

Except for those post drivers designed to operate on low speed for the purposes of positioning the post, post drivers should incorporate means to secure the post, or other item being driven, in the upright position. This is to avoid the operator or another person having to support and guide the post during the driving operation. Should this be required the use of ropes or a Y pole to position the post are most appropriate.

SAFETY SIGNS/STICKERS

- Every post driver must clearly display safety signs or stickers on both sides of the machine

INSTRUCTION

The instruction of workers should include as a minimum:

1. The means for safely attaching and detaching the post driver to and from the tractor
2. The means for its safe storage and transport
3. Safe operating instructions
4. A warning about overhead power lines and underground services
5. Necessary personal protective equipment

6. Details of the tractor's specifications that are necessary for the safe operation and transport of the
7. Post driver – e.g. mass, width of wheel track, category of linkage and the like
8. details of the inspection and maintenance requirements for separate items and components, and the
9. post driver as a whole, including a pre-operational checklist
10. Advice that when the post driver is not in operation, it must be immobilized – e.g. turned off and key removed from power source.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

The owner must provide safety instructions to ensure that the post driver is used correctly and safely.

Note: The safety instructions should generally be the manufacturer's instructions. Variations from the manufacturer's instructions must be based on a risk assessment, must not remove any of the safety features and must not expose persons to risks.

COMPETENCE

The owner must ensure that person(s) operating the post driver, and those otherwise involved in its operation, are competent to do so. All persons involved in the operation of the post driver must be instructed in the safety instructions.

USE

The post driver must be used in accordance with the safety instructions.

Note: Variations from the safety instructions must be based on a risk assessment. Must not remove any of the safety features and must not expose persons to risks.

Prior to use, the post driver should be inspected to ensure it is functioning correctly, including all its safety features including guards. If any safety feature is not functioning correctly, the post driver must not be used.

The area where the post driver is to operate must be assessed for hazards that may affect the operation, including the location of overhead power lines and underground services, and the terrain where the post driver will be used.

Safety considerations should include the understanding that overhead power line clearances allow for sagging of the power line due to their weight or wind.

The post driver must remain stable during travel and use and must not exceed the tractor manufacturer specifications. The tractor to which the post driver is attached must have sufficient lifting capacity to safely handle the post driver, both for transportation and operation.

DEACTIVATING THE POST DRIVER

When the post driver is not being used, it must be immobilized. Either the post driver (for self-powered machines) or the power source (e.g. tractor) must be switched off and the activation switch immobilized, or the key removed. When immobilized, the hammer must be placed in its lowest position.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

When not being used, the post driver must be safely stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Particular care should be given to ensure it is stable and does not pose a risk of falling onto a person who is preparing it for use, or falling onto a person accidentally.

When being relocated while attached to a tractor or carried on a truck:

1. The post driver should be configured and secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions when being transported along a public road, all road regulations, including height restrictions, must be observed when attached to a tractor
2. The hammer should be in its lowest position when traveling with a post driver across a farm or other work site, an assessment of the terrain should be made
3. Particular care is required to avoid contact with overhead power lines and traveling on sloping or uneven ground. Travel should be at reduced speed

INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

The post driver must be inspected regularly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions to ensure it is functioning correctly.

All problems identified must be rectified prior to its use. All safety features must be maintained to ensure they are functioning as intended. Where parts or components require replacing,

Replacements must be identical or equivalent to the original parts and components.

If the post driver needs repairing, repairs should be carried out according to the manufacturer's instructions. Where there are no instructions available for the particular repair required, the owner must seek advice from the manufacturer or their agent, or have the necessary work specified by a competent person.

POWER TAKE OFF (PTO) SHAFTS

All PTO shafts should be guarded

Please use the following **Safe Work Procedures** as a guideline to building your own safe work procedures.