

# Skid Steers and Attachments

About 9 minutes to deliver

The machine with no dedicated standard, a lift arm that crushes, and the interlocks people defeat to save two minutes.

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Here is something worth knowing: 1926.602(a)(1) says specific rules for rubber-tired skid-steer equipment are "reserved" — they were never written. So there is no skid-steer standard to hide behind. The general equipment rules apply, and beyond that the operator's manual is the requirement.

That makes this machine one where habits matter more than usual, and it is one of the most dangerous machines on any site.

## GET IN AND OUT THE FRONT, ARMS DOWN

- Enter and leave over the front, with the bucket flat on the ground, using the steps and grab handles. Three points of contact.
- Never climb in or out under a raised lift arm. This is how people die on this machine. The arm comes down — a hydraulic leak, a knocked control, a bumped lever — and the operator is in the gap.
- Never reach through the arms for a tool, a phone, or to clear the bucket.

## THE INTERLOCKS ARE THE SAFETY SYSTEM

Seat bar, seat switch, and the lockouts that disable the loader and drive functions when you are not in the seat.

- Never defeat one. Tying the seat bar up, taping the switch, wedging the seat. People do it because the machine cuts out when they shift their weight, and it means the hydraulics stay live while somebody's body is in the machine.
- A machine with a defeated interlock gets tagged out, not driven carefully.
- Seat belt on, seat bar down, every time. The belt keeps you inside the cab structure in a rollover, which is the only thing that works.

## ATTACHMENTS

- Verify the coupler is fully locked. Pins all the way through, visually confirmed from outside the machine, every time. An attachment that drops off the coupler under load lands on whoever is in front of it.
- Match the attachment to the machine's rated capacity and flow. Auger, breaker, grapple, mulcher — each has different limits.
- Relieve hydraulic pressure before you connect or disconnect couplers, and lock out before you work on any attachment.

## WORKING

- Travel with the bucket low — a raised load makes the machine top-heavy and it tips forward off the front axle.
- Up the slope loaded, down the slope with the load uphill. Never travel across a slope.
- Nobody in the swing or travel path, and nobody riding in the bucket, ever.
- Park with the attachment flat on the ground, controls neutral, parking brake on, key out.

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## ASK THE CREW

- Has anyone here climbed out under a raised arm — or seen it done?
- Are all the seat bars and interlocks on our machines working?
- Who checks the coupler pins are locked, and how?

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29 CFR 1926.602 · 29 CFR 1926.600 · 29 CFR 1910.147

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ATTENDANCE RECORD

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Date

Job / site

Delivered by

Company

| #  | Print name | Signature | Date |
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I delivered this talk and determined it was suitable for this crew and this work.

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