

RED ALERT

Health & Safety

Wessex Water
YTL GROUP



QF323

Please update notice boards

Small Excavator Stability

Reference: 2022/022 - 01/06/2022

Who does this apply to?	Internal / External
What action is required and when?	Briefing to Excavator Operators
Do training records need completing? QF093	Yes
Key contact information	H&S Team / Plant Department

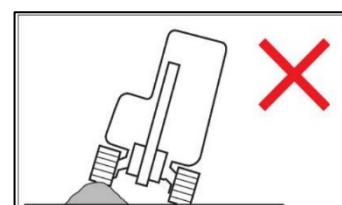
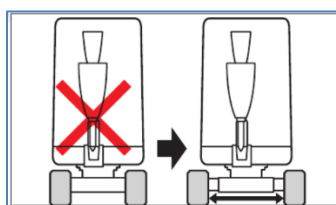
We have recently had two small excavators topple over when working on uneven ground.

The first resulted in a 3Te excavator falling onto its right hand side when the edge of the concrete slab it was operating on collapsed and the machine slid into a shallow excavation. The operator was unhurt as he was wearing his seatbelt and the cab door was closed.

The second incident occurred when a 1.5Te excavator tracked over uneven ground which caused it to become unstable and topple sideways. Again, the operator was uninjured as he was wearing his seat belt and remained within the rollover protection of the machine. In this instance however, the operator had forgotten to extend the width of the machine's tracks after driving it off its trailer making it less stable.

When operating small excavators you must:

- Assess whether it is the most suitable excavator for the ground conditions – would a larger, more stable machine be more appropriate, if available?
- Assess where the excavator can operate or travel safely and avoid areas where there are gradients, voids, the ground may be soft or the surface is weak
- Always operate with the crawler tracks extended to their full width
- When travelling, drop and fold the boom to lower the centre of gravity and keeping the machine facing forward
- Adjust and wear the seatbelt correctly
- Keep the cab door closed, where applicable
- Keep the cab free of loose tools and materials



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