

SKIDSTEER LOADER GUIDE

Version	Date	Comments
1	December, 2008	Initial <i>Skidsteer Loader Guide</i>
2	March, 2009	Periodic Review
3	August, 2011	Periodic Review
4	July, 2015	Periodic Review

A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Guide is to provide information regarding required training, proper use, limitations, and maintenance of skidsteer loaders. This Guide is based upon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards 29 CFR 1926.600: *Equipment* and 1926.602: *Material Handling Equipment*.

B. SCOPE

This Guide applies to all George Mason University employees who operate a skidsteer loader as a part of their work activities and their supervisors.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES

- Employees must receive training and review and adhere to the requirements within the operator's manual, manufacturer's instructions, and this Guide prior to and during operation of a skidsteer loader.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that each skidsteer loader operator receives proper training prior to operating the equipment and also ensure that the operator follows all operating and safety instructions.

D. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Seat belts must be provided and operate properly.
- The skidsteer loader must be equipped with an electronic horn and operate properly.
- Scissor points on the equipment which constitute a hazard to the operator during normal operation must be guarded.
- The operator's cockpit must be equipped with side-screens, roll over protection, safety instructions and warnings, and a second opening for emergency exit.
- Skidsteer loader training is required prior to initial operation and every three years thereafter.
- Training must be conducted by a competent person that has been approved by the supervisor.

- Operators must be at least 18 years of age.
- Trainees may operate a skidsteer loader only where operations do not endanger the trainee, equipment, property, or other employees.
- Training must include the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to the work environment to control or eliminate hazards that may result in injury or property damage.
- Skidsteer loaders must be inspected prior to use. Missing hardware, frayed wires, or otherwise defective components must be replaced or serviced prior to use.
- Skidsteer loaders that require repair must be removed from service and marked “Out of Service, Do Not Use”.
- Persons working in close proximity to an operating skidsteer loader must wear a high-visibility safety vest. The skidsteer operator must maintain awareness of all persons in the area of operation.
- Where skidsteer operations are in close proximity to pedestrians, barricades or other warning devices must be set up to divert pedestrian traffic to a safe area.

E. SKIDSTEER OPERATION

- Operators are required to wear safety belts.
- The operator’s arms and legs must be kept completely inside the skidsteer loader during operation.
- Under no conditions may a person pass under the elevated portion of the attachment.
- Unauthorized or untrained persons are not permitted to ride or operate skidsteer loaders.
- Under no conditions may a person stand on the attachment or accompany a load during travel.
- Operators must lower the attachment and set the brake prior to dismounting.
- When a skidsteer loader is left unattended (more than 25 feet from the operator) the attachment must be fully lowered, controls must be in neutral, brakes set, power must be shut off, and the keys must be removed. Keys must be kept in a secure location.
- Skidsteer loaders must not be operated within 10 feet of energized overhead lines.

F. TRAVELING

- Ascend or descend grades (slopes) slowly.
- Operators must check overhead obstructions (lights, pipes, fixtures, etc.) for sufficient clearance.
- The horn must be used whenever rounding a blind corner, approaching pedestrians, or operating around other vehicular traffic.
- A skidsteer loader may not be driven up to a person standing in front of a fixed object or wall.
- Maintain a safe speed and observe all traffic regulations, traffic signs, and signals.
- All skidsteer loaders traveling on public roads must display a slow moving vehicle emblem (Figure 1).

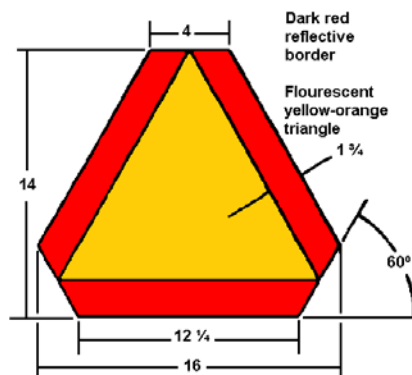


FIGURE J-7. - SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM
NOTE: All dimensions are in inches.

Figure 1

G. MAINTENANCE

- No modifications or additions which affect the capacity or safe operation of a skidsteer loader shall be made without the manufacturer's written approval. If such modifications or changes are made, the capacity, operation, and maintenance instruction plates, tags, or decals shall be changed accordingly.
- Frontend loader buckets and similar equipment must be either fully lowered or blocked when not in use or being repaired. All controls shall be in a neutral position, with the motors stopped and the brakes set, unless the work being performed requires otherwise.

H. REFUELING

- Fuel tanks must not be filled while the engine is running. Spillage should be avoided.
- Spillage of fuel should be carefully washed away or completely evaporated and the fuel tank cap replaced before restarting engine.
- Smoking is prohibited during refueling.

The information contained in this Guide is not inclusive of all OSHA regulations. Please contact Environmental Health and Safety Office at (703) 993-8448 or visit www.OSHA.gov for more information regarding workplace hazards, safety precautions, and regulations.