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## Sample General Safe Work Practice for Loader Operation

### Personal protective equipment

Hardhat and high-visibility clothing to be worn when not inside the cab.

Safety boots in good condition, properly laced, must be worn at all times. Worn-out soles and heels could lead to slips and falls.

Eye protection will be worn where there is danger of falling or flying debris from equipment or loads, especially in windy conditions.

Hand protection will be worn when handling cable or any other material where there is danger of cuts or puncture injury.

Hearing protection will be worn when exposed to noise levels exceeding 85dBA.

**Mounting and dismounting** – three-point contact will be used to mount and dismount equipment.

**Inspection and repairs** – loaders will be inspected prior to use to ensure good mechanical condition.

When working under or around loaders, for inspections or repairs, the loader must be locked and tagged out, and immobilized and secured against inadvertent movement.

**Housekeeping** – cabs, steps, windows, windshields, and mirrors (if applicable) must be kept clean at all times. All debris should be removed.

**Parking** – the loader must be parked on level ground, clear of hazards, to allow ease of access.

**Travelling** – proper gear selection must be used to maintain control. Drive according to terrain conditions

**Danger zone** – danger zone is defined as the area around operating machines or working personnel, in which there is potential for being struck by moving equipment or objects. The danger zone may vary according to the machine or work being performed. Operators must make sure that all persons, vehicles and equipment are clear of the danger zone before the vehicle or its components are moved.

**Lockout** – Lockout procedures must be followed during mechanical service, repairs or inspection for the protection of employees and equipment.

Please note: This document is for information purposes only as a guide. The safe job procedures (SJP) and safe work practices (SWP) created for your workplace should reflect your organizations processes, equipment and hazards as identified by a hazard analysis. Construction Safety Nova Scotia does not assume responsibility for the use of information in this document. If assistance is needed to complete a SWP and SJP for your organization please contact CSNS member services at [constructionsafetyns.ca](http://constructionsafetyns.ca) or 1.800.971.3888.



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Refer to company and manufacturer's procedures on lockout.

Communications while assisting in mechanical repairs – When operators are assisting mechanics to repair machines, clear communications must be established prior to starting the tasks. The operator and the mechanic must each know who will be responsible for:

- a) Starting or moving a machine
- b) Ensuring that anyone involved is in a clear and safe position
- c) Directing the movement of the machine
- d) Ensuring that it is safe to resume working and that all guards are in place.

The operator must have a clear understanding of what is to be done and follow the specific lockout instructions and instructions given by the mechanic responsible for performing the job.

**Loading/unloading** – The operator will communicate with the truck driver for proper positioning to ensure safe, efficient and easy loading. All efforts are to be made not to load debris, small sticks and rocks that can fall off during transport.

The operator must ensure that the load is not over stake height and within legal limits.

Gravel trucks will be loaded according to conditions and maximum legal requirements.